

VOLUME II

ALASKA MIGRATORY BIRD CO-MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FALL MEETING

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

Members Present:

Bruce Dale, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gloria Stickwan, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
Sheena Marrs, Chugach Regional Resources Commission
Jack Fagerstrom, Kawerak
Cyrus Harris, Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
Billy Adams, North Slope Region, Barrow
Coral Chernoff, Sun'ag Tribe of Kodiak
Jennifer Hooper, Association of Village Presidents
Gayla Hoseth, Bristol Bay Native Association
Randy Mayo, Tanana Chiefs representative, Interior
Peter Devine, Aleutian/Pribilofs

Executive Director, Patty Brown-Schwalenberg

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 9/14/2018)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good morning.

Welcome to day two of the fall 2018 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council meeting. I'm Eric Taylor. Thank you for a very special day yesterday. If you didn't catch the news, there's very nice coverage. Patty forwarded me a link to KTVA Channel 11 and there were very nice quotes from both Gayla and Cyrus on that production as well as a nice quote from Commissioner Cotten. So again thank you for everyone's efforts for I think a very meaningful morning.

Patty has informed me that I am under severe pressure to make sure that we're out of here by early afternoon, so I'll do my best to keep us on the clock. So where we left off yesterday was on old business. I think the first Council committee that we need to address is Budget. Someone is going to have to remind me who the chairperson is for that committee.

MS. SCHWALENBERG: Mr. Chairman, the day of the committee meetings we kind of rolled the Budget Committee into the Native Caucus due to time constraints. Maybe if Donna could come up and we can just discuss what happened during that portion of our meeting.

MS. DEWHURST: I passed out the handouts on examples on the grants. It's actually from BBNA's grant. I just used it as an example that shows what ideally -- this language has been in the grants for 15 years or longer. Ideally what the money is supposed to go for. In reality, I think a lot of groups never get past item 3 or 4 and never get into 5 and 6, which is outreach. So we're aware of that and we're taking that into consideration.

Our fiscal year ends the end of September, so we'll be going into fiscal year '19. Most of you the grants were very delayed in getting them. A couple of you folks got yours early. Patty's group, APIA and I think Sun'aq and then Kodiak got theirs on time basically. Everybody else were hugely delayed. The last grant to be issued was Kawerak and I

1 think that was the middle of July. So they were very
2 late.

3
4 Because of that we didn't have a spring
5 meeting last year or this year I should say, the
6 statewide meeting. Most groups did not hold spring
7 regional meetings because they didn't have any funding.
8 So a lot of the groups have expressed that they aren't
9 going to be able to spend all their money because they
10 didn't get it until so late.

11
12 The new grants are designed to always
13 carry over the money, the funds, but the question is --
14 and what we've done in the past was if you carried over
15 any money, we would subtract it for what you got the
16 next year. So even though you got to carry over the
17 money it didn't help that much because it just got
18 subtracted. This year we're reconsidering and I'll let
19 Eric take it from there.

20
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Donna.
22 I'll be happy to cover this topic now or move it to the
23 end of the agenda where we talk about the 2018 budget
24 and financial report and request to carry over funds.

25
26 MS. DEWHURST: I think we could do it
27 now because we already discussed it at the committee
28 meeting.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That is fine. So I
31 made a decision that indeed because the Fish and
32 Wildlife Service was very late in administering grants
33 to the regions that the Fish and Wildlife Service will
34 allow the carry-over from FY18 to your FY19 and not
35 deduct any funds from your FY19. In other words, you
36 will get your full allocation for your FY19 as well as
37 any unspent funds from your FY18 grants.

38
39 What we hope to do and as Donna
40 mentioned we're fully aware that Council members are
41 pretty -- I think their budgets for travel and lodging
42 haven't been really looked at in quite some time. In
43 fact, in my review of the allocation to regions, it has
44 not been changed since 2005. So that's a period of 14
45 years. We all know that airfare, fuel, lodging has
46 gone up.

47
48 So when we get to the next section I'd
49 like to ask the Council members to provide me a
50

1 proposal or a budget, a revised budget, for travel and
2 lodging because it's my intent to make sure that you
3 have sufficient funds to allow you to have, as the
4 grant agreement states, at least one, preferably two
5 meetings per year. I think two meetings per year are
6 necessary actually.

7
8 Along with that I think outreach and
9 education is extremely important and I'm hoping that
10 indeed some of the funds that you will carry over from
11 FY18 that were not spent this year can perhaps be used
12 for some outreach and education efforts. If so, if
13 Council members have ideas for outreach and education
14 for which the Fish and Wildlife Service or the
15 Department of Fish and Game can help, I think both
16 agencies would like to aid in that effort.

17
18 I don't mean to speak to my colleague
19 to the right, but I do think, at least from the Service
20 aspect, we would be happy to provide you with products
21 in terms of PowerPoints, handouts, posters, things that
22 will increase the understanding of this process.

23
24 I'll end there. If there's any
25 questions, I'll be happy to address them.

26
27 Gayla.

28
29 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 I know that we've been operating under the same budget
31 dollar amount for many years. One thing that I'm
32 pretty sure everybody around the table that the
33 decrease that is happening is on our salary line and as
34 indirect rates go up. We're happy to do increased
35 outreach and education but we need to have more money
36 allocated to our grants to be able to do this work.

37
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Any other
39 comments. Randy.

40
41 MR. MAYO: So like in our region we
42 just get by with barely two meetings with what we have
43 and probably further out it's even probably more so
44 expensive just to travel. So what are you saying? To
45 increase the overall -- I mean I'm sure all of us could
46 use probably double what we get now just to barely get
47 by, you know. So are you saying an overall increase in
48 the allocation when you ask for something of a budget
49 from us?

50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I'm sorry, Randy. So
2 what I would like to see, if possible, for example for
3 your case, it would be nice for me to see what does it
4 cost for your village members to fly -- if you have
5 your meeting in Fairbanks, for example, what does it
6 cost in terms of airfare and lodging and per diem to
7 fly your village members that want to come in for the
8 AMBCC meeting that you're holding, the migratory bird
9 meeting at TCC, and then also what would be an amount
10 that you think is necessary for outreach and education.
11

12 So what I'm trying to do is get an idea
13 of -- you know, I've heard from many of you that
14 airfare has increased and lodging has increased and you
15 barely have enough funding right now to support travel
16 and lodging and meals for members to come in to your
17 meetings twice a year. So what I'm asking for is for
18 the representatives to submit a budget that I can
19 review to see how we can provide the necessary funds to
20 ensure that you have two meetings a year and at least
21 do some outreach and education.
22

23 Does that help?
24

25 MS. DEWHURST: And as we're at the end
26 of the fiscal cycle, we talked about this at the
27 committee meeting, but there were a couple members that
28 weren't here. I sent an email out recently. The two
29 big things we're going to need as soon as you can
30 produce it will be the SF-425, which is just the form
31 saying you were given this amount of money, you spent
32 this amount of money and this is how much you're
33 carrying over.
34

35 As soon as you can clear your accounts
36 and know that for FY18 the better. That helps us out a
37 lot. And then the other thing you need is just your
38 annual report that you have to produce every year.
39 Same old thing.
40

41 So those are the two big things we need
42 as soon as possible. I know you have 90 days to do it
43 according to the rules, but it would help us out a lot
44 if we could get it sooner rather than later as far as
45 for us to know how much money we're going to be
46 carrying over.
47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Peter.
49
50

1 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Just in my area alone I serve 11 communities. The cost
3 to get to three of them communities is \$2,000 to \$2,500
4 for me to get out to Atka, Nikolski and Adak. I mean
5 just three of them communities would suck up our entire
6 budget of 22,000. So for you to ask us to submit a
7 budget proposal that fits our needs, I mean we're going
8 to be looking at 60,000 just to do what the Service is
9 asking.

10
11 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Peter.
12 Again, I'm just trying to get an idea. If that indeed
13 is the case, provide a budget to me in terms of the
14 expected costs for travel. I can't promise the group
15 at this point -- I mean all of us are aware the Fish
16 and Wildlife Service budget, including the Migratory
17 Bird budget, is declining and has declined over the
18 past decade if not more.

19
20 I'm fully cognizant of what I need to
21 do for other aspects of my program including the
22 Waterfowl Survey Program that you're here about today
23 and the Seabird Die-off Program that we have. So I'm
24 trying to balance priorities and this is one of the
25 priorities.

26
27 When I became aware that the allocation
28 to the regions had not been changed for quite some time
29 and I'm fully aware that airfares have changed. I'm
30 trying to make this a little bit more palatable and
31 reasonable for all of you to hold the meetings that we
32 all know are important.

33
34 Gayla.

35
36 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 I have one follow up. We've been asking for a number
38 of years for an actual budget of the money that comes
39 in for AMBCC and not just what is allocated out to all
40 of the partners sitting around the table. The money
41 that comes in to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service how is
42 that dispensed amongst U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
43 and not just necessarily to AMBCC.

44
45 We've been asking this now for years
46 and we haven't been able to get that information. As
47 we have received the same amount of money, we would
48 like to know how much money is coming in for this.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you for
2 your question. I want to make sure I understand it
3 correctly. So you would like to know the budget to the
4 Fish and Wildlife Service Region 7, the entire Alaska
5 Region or just to the Migratory Bird Program or at what
6 level would you like?

7
8 MS. HOSETH: I guess anything that
9 connects it to AMBCC here. Like for -- I'm not sure
10 how the -- I guess we don't even know how the money
11 comes through and what is allocated to what. We just
12 know that we've been with this line item. With the
13 travel increases, I've had to decrease things in my
14 area just to cover our travel cost because it is also
15 high to travel within our region. So I guess we want
16 to know how much money is coming into the Service and
17 how is that money allocated besides just to AMBCC
18 anything that has to do with migratory birds.

19
20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I can
21 certainly put together a document and I can meet with
22 Greg and Karen to better understand the total
23 allocation of the region. I can certainly provide you
24 the information to our allocation that our region gets
25 for migratory birds.

26
27 So we have an allocation that the Fish
28 and Wildlife Service delivers from headquarters to the
29 Migratory Bird Program overall and then the Migratory
30 Bird Program is separated up into eight regions of
31 which the Alaska region is one. So I have an
32 allocation from headquarters to run the program here in
33 the Alaska region. I think that would probably be most
34 informative.

35
36 I have little influence on how the
37 Director of Fish and Wildlife Service allocates funding
38 to Refuges or Fisheries and Ecological Services or
39 Endangered Species, for example, but what I do have
40 control of is the headquarters allocation that comes
41 into my program. So I'll be happy to provide that to
42 you to give you a better idea.

43
44 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other questions.
47 Randy.

48
49 MR. MAYO: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 It's more so of a comment speaking as a former first
2 chief of my tribe. We all know here around the table
3 that when it comes to meeting overall tribal needs and
4 priorities nationally that tribes are shortchanged
5 across the board for whatever need and priority.
6

7 I had mentioned this time and again at
8 our regional meetings that the disproportionate funding
9 and including this subsistence terminology activity and
10 where that rates in other needs and priorities within
11 the State and Federal hunting and fishing system, you
12 know, I think it rates right up there money-wise with
13 all other activity within the Service and ADF&G.
14

15 I always took offense at the system,
16 how the law defines our cultural and spiritual right to
17 our traditional foods for ceremonies and sustenance is
18 defined as subsistence. To me, that's like a term we
19 don't know of any other way of making a living, like
20 going and getting a job and whatnot.
21

22 So it's more so an obvious comment
23 that, like I said, we all know that sitting around here
24 coming from the tribal level. So it's more of a
25 comment and a statement.
26

27 Thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other comments for
30 the Budget Committee at this point.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We'll again review
35 this at the later part of the meeting so you'll have an
36 opportunity to provide comments at that time.
37

38 So that concludes the Budget Committee.
39 The next committee is the Fall/Winter Subsistence
40 Harvest Season. It's my understanding that we'll hold
41 off on that discussion until agenda item under number
42 -- I'm not sure why it's 10. Fall/Winter Subsistence
43 Harvest Season at the end.
44

45 Does that sound reasonable, Gayla?
46

47 MS. HOSETH: Yes.
48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. So, let's see.
50

1 Moving on to the Harvest Assessment Program. Liliana
2 Naves.

3
4 MS. NAVES: So the material for the
5 Harvest Assessment Program is behind Tab 2. I would
6 like to start with the review and adoption of the 2017
7 harvest estimates. The draft estimates were provided
8 to all partners and participated at the regional bird
9 councils. At this point we need to do the formal
10 process to adopt the estimates after discussions and
11 questions.

12
13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Lili, can you refresh
14 the Council on when the 2017 preliminary estimates were
15 distributed and when you asked for review.

16
17 MS. NAVES: This version that's there
18 in the binder is of 8 August, but there are previous
19 versions to that. So I think there may be two or three
20 months at least since they have been distributed. I
21 coordinated with Patty for the regions of the regional
22 bird councils and helped the councils go through the
23 tables.

24
25 I think for the three councils that
26 have already met out of the five regions that are
27 surveyed, each individual council had the motion to
28 adopt the estimates and I think that helps streamline
29 the process for the representatives here so they know
30 exactly what their regional councils intention is. I
31 think that what leaves up is for the two councils that
32 have not had their meetings yet and that's North Slope
33 and Bristol Bay.

34
35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. So at
36 this point would you prefer that those two councils
37 meet and adopt the estimates that their individual
38 council meetings and then at some point later in the
39 future for the overall AMBCC to adopt these 2017
40 estimates?

41
42 MS. NAVES: I will defer to them to
43 decide how they want to move forward.

44
45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I'll ask
46 both Gayla and Billy what's your preference at this
47 point. Would you prefer to present the 2017 estimates
48 to your individual councils for review and approval and
49 then come back at a later date for the overall Council

50

1 to approve?

2

3

MR. ADAMS: (Nods affirmatively).

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So I'm getting a nod from Billy. Gayla, would you prefer to do that?

7

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9

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15

MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I can bring it back to the council and I think that -- I mean we could -- would we wait until April and then we would be able to share this information out once these estimates are approved by our council? We'd be able to share them with the region or do we have to wait until April once this Council approves it?

16

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26

MS. NAVES: I think it would be better for us to have it before April because that delays the release of the data until April. So if as soon as you have your meeting and if you please communicate what happens at the meeting and maybe you can have a vote by email or something like that. Because for the three regions that already have their meetings, correct me if I'm wrong there, but all the three regions had the motion to adopt. That was Interior, Bering Strait and Y-K Delta.

27

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34

MS. HOSETH: Mr. Chair. Would we be able to do a motion to where we approve these here pending approval from our councils and once that approval happens then we won't have to do an email vote? I don't think there's going to be a problem in the Bristol Bay region, but I just want to bring it back to the council for final approval.

35

36

37

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39

40

41

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Billy, do you have a preference? What Gayla is proposing is that we do a conditional approval of the 2017 estimates based on final okay by both the North Slope Borough and Bristol Bay. The reverse is that your meetings are fairly soon, is that correct?

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

MS. HOSETH: Well, according to that paper that just came out maybe 30 days from now. I have to give you guys 30 days notice of when we have our meeting. We're going to have our meeting as soon as possible. I know that there should be some flexibility in there.

49

50

MR. ADAMS: We're getting close to

1 having a Fish and Game meeting in a few weeks. So be
2 it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I think my comfort
5 level or preference would be for you to have your
6 individual meetings, get the approval and then an email
7 vote is fairly simple or even a teleconference and that
8 way we can get it approved. That way just in case
9 there are questions or a correction that you find that
10 we don't end up going back. I'll put that to Gayla and
11 Bruce to weigh in to see what you think.

12
13 Bruce.

14
15 MR. DALE: I'm fine with it either way.

16
17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Gayla.

18
19 MS. HOSETH: I'm fine with just making
20 a motion, Mr. Chairman, and that way it will just help
21 -- if there's any problems, then we bring it back to
22 the Executive Committee for further discussion, but
23 that way it will just be a.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Move it forward.

26
27 MS. HOSETH: Yeah. I make a motion
28 that we conditionally approve the estimates and pending
29 North Slope Borough and Bristol Bay Native Association
30 having their regional council meetings.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Billy.

33
34 MR. ADAMS: You know, I'm pretty sure
35 they'll approve it, so if we have any other issues with
36 it we'll come back.

37
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Fair enough. So we
39 have a motion on the floor to conditionally approve the
40 2017 harvest estimates with the idea that if there are
41 issues either with the estimates from the North Slope
42 Borough or from the Bristol Bay Association that those
43 concerns will be brought forward to the Executive
44 Committee for discussion.

45
46 Bruce.

47
48 MR. DALE: Is it my understanding then
49 if there is no objection or corrections that need to be
50

1 made that they can be -- they will be adopted without
2 further action.

3
4 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you for that
5 clarification. Do I have a second to the motion.

6
7 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Coral.
10 Any discussion.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. HARRIS: Question.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Question. Thank you,
17 Cyrus. All in favor say aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Opposed.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

26
27 MS. NAVES: I would like to ask to
28 Gayla and Bill to keep me in the loop for when you have
29 your meetings because me or Jackie are available to
30 attend the meeting by teleconference and we can help if
31 there are questions during the meeting and provide
32 information.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Lili.

37
38 MS. NAVES: So the second item there on
39 the agenda is the program updates and this is the very
40 first sheet that's behind Tab 2. So this is a brief
41 overview of what was done and what is ongoing work and
42 what we've planned for what is ongoing. So just to go
43 on the items there on this one-pager. Are we on the
44 same page there? Behind Tab 2, the first page.

45
46 So item (a) there of work recently
47 completed refers to the 2017 survey. That analysis was
48 completed for that. This year again I did the analysis
49 and Dave Otis did the analysis independently on his
50

1 side just because we are still working on the optimal
2 locations and after our first run our numbers pretty
3 much matched to the second decimal case, so we're
4 pretty good running that one SPSS and SAS, the
5 different software. So we were happy with that
6 consistency. The final report to come out as soon as
7 you have it adopted by other regions.

8
9 Item (b) there we already saw yesterday
10 the presentation by Dave and I worked with them and I
11 provided them data for them to do their optimal
12 locations and I worked again with them this year for
13 that. So that's now water under the bridge.

14
15 Item (c) is the registration and mail-
16 out harvest survey for the Cordova harvest. This last
17 year Tatitlek and Chenega were added as communities
18 eligible to participate in that harvest. So the
19 Division of Subsistence worked with the local partners.
20 Those are the tribal councils for all the villages that
21 are eligible to participate in that harvest to set up
22 their household registration process and you follow up
23 with the mail-out survey.

24
25 So as soon as the hunt closes we send
26 the first wave of surveys to the registered households
27 and then one month later the second wave and one month
28 later the third mail-out based on the surveys that had
29 not been returned yet. I know that that's not the
30 typical case, but for the mail-out survey we have had
31 about 30 households that registered there between the
32 three communities and we had kind of 90 percent plus
33 return rate on a mail-out survey which is astonishing
34 by all measures.

35
36 So I really appreciate the
37 participation of the partners there and I work with
38 them to post reminders at the places where people
39 circulate in the community, so I really appreciate the
40 participation of the tribe, the Forest Service, the
41 Chenega Tribal Council and the Tatitlek Tribal Council.

42
43 Also Fish and Game there in Anchorage
44 Charlotte Westing has been our main primary contact
45 there although we don't hand out registrations at the
46 Fish and Game office there, Charlotte has been up and
47 running and be able to provide information and have
48 information and materials there in case people there.
49 So I really appreciate that participation there too.

50

1 So that's done for this year again. So
2 the 2018 survey for Cordova that happens just after the
3 harvest that's done. We already sent the third wave.
4 I'd also like to thank Jackie Keating for helping with
5 that because she handled lots of data this year.
6

7 This year we got the final goal there
8 with the -- I'm going to the item (d) there, the
9 seabird paper. That was an overview of seabird harvest
10 in Alaska. That was a paper that was published in
11 Polar Biology and there are copies there behind your
12 Tab 2. That started a few years ago and the intent of
13 that was to handle data requests that I was getting on
14 harvest of seabirds of conservation concern such as
15 Red-legged Kittiwakes and Terns and Tern eggs and such.
16 So we're covered on that side there.
17

18 Having this work on seabirds and now we
19 have done the same thing with shorebirds, the
20 presentation that we did yesterday, we are covered with
21 most of our species of conservation concern and you
22 have much better information to provide to the non-game
23 (indiscernible) for the Pacific Flyway Council, which
24 have been acting on a kind of status quo regarding the
25 non-game species that are open to harvest, but now we
26 have much better information to provide then.
27

28 I would like to thank Dave Otis for
29 helping me develop a system to calculate confidence
30 intervals because when doing this overview of harvest
31 data I put together lots of data together from
32 different data sources and things become complicated
33 analytically and Dave really helped setting up a system
34 for this analysis and we used it for the seabirds and
35 now we've already used that for the shorebirds and now
36 we have a system down the next thing -- down the road
37 here to be to do a similar overview for waterfowl.
38 That is the meat of the subsistence harvest.
39

40 Going down the list. The next item is
41 the shorebird harvest indigenous knowledge. So this
42 just briefly touch on there. That's the presentation
43 we saw yesterday. So this project happened between
44 2016 and 2018 and we're done with it. Most of the
45 reporting is already done. The report went to the
46 villages. We produced summaries in English and Yup'ik
47 for that. This material was already distributed by
48 communities in the Y-K Delta.
49
50

1 The idea is that now those materials
2 have a longevity and we'll keep using it with
3 partnership with the Yukon Delta and maybe the Togiak
4 Refuge if they take an interest in the topic. Crystal
5 had mentioned there was interest in putting this
6 material in the display at the headquarters at the
7 Refuge in Bethel. They have a monitor that you can
8 flip through products. This can be there.

9
10 I think also this is really interesting
11 because this was the first time in a long while that
12 you produced a report in a Native language and the data
13 came through with the partnership with Rebecca Nayamin,
14 the translator that we got to meet with. Sometimes
15 it's difficult to get translation services, but having
16 been in contact with her now we hope to do more of that
17 in the future.

18
19 In connection with this project as we
20 had done interviews in Hooper Bay, soon after that the
21 Cornell Lab of Ornithology had a project to have a
22 video documentary of interactions between people and
23 shorebirds along with the Pacific Flyway, so they have
24 one location in Washington, one in Mexico and they're
25 hoping to work with the community here in Alaska.

26
27 With the partnerships that had been
28 developed within the context of this project I was able
29 to help them in developing partnerships with the
30 village of Hooper Bay and they went there. It was kind
31 of a long process to get through it, but they
32 eventually got village consent and they were there this
33 spring doing their filming. I'm really looking forward
34 to see the product they're going to put forth. They
35 have a strong tradition of making documentaries that
36 are very beautiful and very touching.

37
38 I believe that they are going to do
39 something that you're very happy with and it will be
40 something that can be used by this Council too. They
41 have done one documentary in the Y-K Delta, but this is
42 only about birds. It didn't focus too much on people.
43 So this one will focus more on the relationship between
44 people and birds. You have a different flavor.

45
46 So we have the report for this project
47 and the two summaries and the manuscript also is under
48 review. So moving down the list there, Item (f). Last
49 year we did a pilot project about Tern local and
50

1 traditional knowledge. There's one thing I have to
2 show is the report, it exists. It is not in your
3 material there because it's a pilot project. We're
4 still working on this.

5
6 So we did interviews about local and
7 traditional knowledge about Terns, both Aleutian Terns
8 and Arctic Terns in the community of Platinum. We are
9 seeing opportunities to expand the geographic coverage
10 of this work because the Terns are all over the State
11 on the coastal areas and also Interior where Arctic
12 Tern breeds.

13
14 So far lots of the work that has been
15 done with Terns there's lots of biological research
16 going on because there are concerns about the number of
17 Aleutian Terns going down, but also people don't know
18 exactly what's going on with Arctic Terns. People, for
19 instance, have no clue how many Arctic Terns breed in
20 Alaska because they breed in Interior and it's really
21 difficult to count those birds because they move a lot
22 from one place to another. They are really funky.

23
24 Their productivity is kind of all over
25 the place too. Sometimes they do good. Lots of times
26 they do bad. So it's really difficult for a biologist
27 to get a hand on what's going on. So, for instance,
28 they are developing methods to try to come with a
29 better system to count colonies and track colonies.
30 They are trying to use -- they are testing, for
31 instance, technology with the use of drones now.

32
33 But I think the intent of doing this
34 LTK pilot study is that people have been in the
35 villages a long time and even kind of in interior where
36 Arctic Terns are and people know nothing about Terns.
37 Interior I mean non-coastal areas, not specifically
38 kind of referring to Interior Region. So I think there
39 is great potential for integrating local and
40 traditional knowledge into those efforts that are
41 ongoing. So it's for that that we have been working on
42 this.

43
44 So moving to the ongoing and upcoming
45 work. For this topic I'd like to invite Donna Dewhurst
46 to come up and help me going through it. The need for
47 this work started because of updates needed to the Fish
48 and Wildlife Service website. The Fish and Wildlife
49 Service has historically hosted the AMBCC website and
50

1 because of changes in technology and changes in
2 software that's needed to handle websites, Fish and
3 Wildlife Service is going through a big overview and
4 update of their website.
5

6 There were challenges on which kind of
7 materials can be presented on this new configuration of
8 the website, how big you can put the AMBCC logo there
9 and how often this can be updated. So with Donna and
10 Patty we discussed the option of dividing the contents
11 of the AMBCC website in different components.
12

13 So Fish and Wildlife Service will
14 continue hosting the regulations part, the transcripts
15 and other functions that are inherent to Fish and
16 Wildlife Service. Then we'll have a section of the
17 information hosted within the web page of the ADF&G and
18 that would be the part that pertains to the Harvest
19 Assessment Program because that's the part of that that
20 we work more directly.
21

22 Patty is working to develop a system to
23 host the parts of the website that deal with the Native
24 Caucus and the regional bird councils. Then all those
25 things will be interlinked and from one page you can go
26 through the other ones. At first I was a little unsure
27 how these parts would coordinate and how easy it would
28 be to link one page to another, but at this point I
29 think it would be good to have them going and see how
30 that works.
31

32 We also talk about the interest of
33 having a single consolidated website that holds
34 everything together, but besides the initial cost of
35 building a website there are ongoing costs and work in
36 maintaining and updating a website. So who was going
37 to do that and where money would come for that in the
38 median and long term was uncertain.
39

40 So at least in the short term we
41 thought about going with this three parts of the
42 website. Donna, do you have anything to add there?
43

44 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I'll just add a
45 history. The website -- I've been managing the
46 website. I built the website and managed the website
47 for the past 15 years, something like that. Maybe not
48 that long. 2003 I think was when we first put it up,
49 '03 or '04. I've been managing the whole website.
50

1 Building it and doing all the updates and everything.

2

3 We have been hosted by the Fish and
4 Wildlife Service to be able to be on their server, but
5 we were always considered a separate entity. So we had
6 the luxury of being able to not follow all the rules of
7 the Fish and Wildlife Service websites and having our
8 logo big and on the top and a lot of other things that
9 we normally wouldn't be able to do for a Fish and
10 Wildlife Service website.

11

12 Unfortunately the rules have changed
13 and we can't do that anymore and they've changed the
14 software. Not that I can't do the new software. I'm
15 probably going to be retiring sometime. I don't have a
16 definitive date yet, but we're trying to figure out
17 things for the future. This seemed like a good fix for
18 the time being like Lili said.

19

20 I've already gotten with our web
21 manager Rose Primmer. We mocked up the new Fish and
22 Wildlife website. I wish I could have brought it, but
23 Rose was out all week and I couldn't get anything to
24 show you. Initially you may not like it because we are
25 now under the Fish and Wildlife Service rules, so the
26 website looks like a Fish and Wildlife Service website.
27 As you read down on it, it says Fish and Wildlife
28 Service is a partner of the AMBCC and this is the
29 regulations and all that.

30

31 On first blush it may not look -- it's
32 going to look very different. You're not going to see
33 the big logo in the corner and the traditional look.
34 What we are going to post on it is like Lili said. It
35 would have the stuff that's inherently government
36 stuff. We'll have the regs, we'll have the Federal
37 Register documents, the press releases, things like
38 that that we are by law required to post. The nice
39 thing will be that whoever is working on this stuff
40 will be able to just give those documents to the Fish
41 and Wildlife Service webmaster and they can post it.

42

43 So it will be virtually no cost and
44 easy to maintain for the time being. Once Patty gets
45 up her site, which will be more of a Native Caucus
46 focus, and we're talking about trying to branch into
47 social media, which would be really fun I think.
48 Getting some young people involved in that. Old people
49 like me have a hard time with Snapchat and all the new

50

1 social media aspects. If we can do that, we might be
2 able to reach young people and start branching out and
3 reaching some different audiences.

4
5 I think at first this may be a rub.
6 Right now the current website is still up. Yours is
7 up. Fish and Game is up. Ours, I'm not sure when the
8 switch is going to flip between -- I haven't gotten a
9 good answer from when it's going to go from our old
10 site to the new site. Sometime in the next couple of
11 months.

12
13 At first blush it may be a little bit
14 new. Everything should interlink. So it should be all
15 transparent. There's going to be different looks to
16 the different sites. Right now to go from like the
17 home page to the harvest survey data on the old site it
18 was a link. So everything will still be link driven.
19 It's just when you link it will be going to another
20 host. Which should be like, in that case, going to
21 Lili's stuff you'll be going to Fish and Game's
22 website, but then there will be a cross link to just
23 jump right back. Then once Patty's is up it will all
24 be interlinked too.

25
26 I think in the long run you guys may
27 like it better. I mean I had to dis myself because
28 I've been doing this all these years, but I think it
29 might give us more flexibility and I think it will be a
30 little more futuristic. I mean I think we could reach
31 more people and I'm kind of excited about it. I think
32 it will give us an opportunity to branch out a little
33 bit.

34
35 MS. NAVES: I'd like to thank Dave
36 Cosser (ph) and Derek Hedstrom with Fish and Game that
37 really expedited this process a whole lot and helped
38 with the flow of the information in the website. So
39 this just went online yesterday or the day before.
40 This is how it looks like. It's within the Division of
41 Subsistence and where the red circles are is where you
42 click to access the information.

43
44 When you go to bird and egg harvest
45 data there, the information is divided in five tabs.
46 The first tab there is the big AMBCC logo and on those
47 other pages there it's how each of the other tabs are
48 organized. So they were divided in program overview,
49 annual harvest estimates, harvest and local knowledge
50

1 research, outreach and communication and sampling
2 design of annual surveys.
3

4 MS. STICKWAN: Is it possible to get
5 through this new website to get our meeting materials?
6 Because for RAC meetings we're able to read all this
7 information before we go to our meetings. Here we have
8 to wait until the day of the meeting and try and catch
9 up.
10

11 MS. NAVES: Donna.
12

13 MS. DEWHURST: I think that's a
14 question for Patty and I. I mean Patty and I have been
15 involved in trying to get these booklets done. In an
16 ideal world the answer would be yes, but it seems like
17 we never get the materials -- as it is we're putting
18 booklets together just days before the meeting. We
19 don't get the materials from -- we're dependent on a
20 lot of other people to give us the materials. We're
21 not like OSM where they're all internal in OSM. Yeah,
22 in an ideal world that would be what we'd like to do
23 but we have a little bit to get there. I think that
24 could be something to strive for.
25

26 MS. NAVES: This is the kind of
27 material that would be maybe on the Fish and Wildlife
28 Service component of it or the Native Caucus. I don't
29 think that would be on the Fish and Game part of it
30 because we'll keep with the Harvest Assessment Program
31 part.
32

33 MR. MAYO: So once you work your way
34 through all the logistical challenges to finally get
35 this up and running you guys will send us an email once
36 it's available?
37

38 MS. NAVES: Yes.
39

40 MR. MAYO: Okay.
41

42 MS. NAVES: So on the very first tab
43 there on the Fish and Game part it's missing the links
44 to the partners and that would be to the new websites,
45 the new pages that Fish and Wildlife Service and Patty
46 are arranging for. So when other links are available
47 we'll update the site to include it in there.
48

49 One potential benefit that I see is
50

1 this is to be more flexible and be quicker with the
2 updates because Donna also was depending on another
3 person to put on the updates to the website and I think
4 like that we have more flexibility to do that and how
5 to organize things and what you can post there.
6

7 Let's give it a try and if you have
8 comments and suggestions there let me know. We are
9 still a work in progress. I sent an email to I think
10 most of you yesterday with the links to the Fish and
11 Game ones, so we should have that there.
12

13 MS. DEWHURST: One other thing. With
14 our new website we are constrained with space. It
15 surprised me given our cloud access and all that good
16 stuff. The new website we couldn't put -- on the old
17 website I have all the transcripts and a page that has
18 all the transcripts. I couldn't do that on the new
19 website. So Patty has some CDs. I burned all the
20 transcripts up to -- obviously we don't have today's
21 transcript yet, but up till today they're all on the
22 CDs and she can pass them out and then as new
23 transcripts come around she can email them out to you
24 all.
25

26 MS. HOSETH: I just wanted to say thank
27 you for all the hard work on the web page over the
28 years. I know it's a lot to keep that updated and
29 maintained. Thank you, too, Liliana, for doing that
30 work. All of us working together and that's what
31 co-management is about. We're excited to get the new
32 web page launched.
33

34 MS. DEWHURST: Once we get over the --
35 none of us like change and once we get over the initial
36 change I think it will have a lot more ability for
37 growth and reaching out to some new directions and I
38 think that's really neat.
39

40 MS. NAVES: One thing I have talked
41 with Patty about the part of the Native Caucus that it
42 will be desirable to have more information on the
43 regional bird councils because that's where we get a
44 lot of information. It would be nice to have one page
45 on each regional bird council, the name of the council,
46 who are the members, the history of the council because
47 the councils are organized a little bit different. It
48 would be nice to have a picture there with the members
49 of the council if things change. You don't need to
50

1 update it often.

2

3 The Bristol Bay Council has a Native
4 name, the YKC. Could you please help me. It's the
5 Keepers of the Birds.

6

7 MS. HOSETH: Yaquillrit Kelutisti.

8

9 MS. ADERMAN: Yaquillrit Kelutisti.
10 (Indiscernible) and I, we came up with the name and we
11 both won \$20 each.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. NAVES: I want to encourage the
16 other councils to have their Native names too. Kind of
17 what their regional councils are striving for. What is
18 your motto. Kind of what this means for you. I
19 encourage you to work with your regional councils on
20 that. That's material that can be available on the
21 Native Caucus page for instance.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Lili. Any
24 other comments or questions for Lili at this point.

25

26 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

29

30 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. Many of our
31 elders in our communities don't have -- some of them
32 have iPads and stuff to look at websites, but when we
33 do an outreach it's always good just looking at the
34 reference book here. What could really captivate and
35 have our Native elders look at the history of things
36 like the treaties in the table of contents and how it
37 began with all these treaties in here.

38

39 I think it would make really good sense
40 to put all of that. We've done something like that
41 before with a different animal and it really helped to
42 understand what that A&O body was and how it performs
43 and how it operates and who the members are and past
44 members. Those kind of things really get somebody to
45 read and understand why it's there.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Billy.

50

1 Liliana, I jotted down some notes. In addition to the
2 Colorado State review that you've been doing with Dave
3 and Paul, you conducted the statewide survey with 99
4 percent response rate, a Polar Biology publication,
5 your shorebird work both in Yup'ik and English
6 summaries, the documentaries, the condor manuscript
7 submitted on shorebird subsistence harvest and then
8 your recent work on Terns.
9

10 That's a really impressive year. As a
11 representative of the Fish and Wildlife Service I want
12 to thank you for your dedication and support.
13 Sometimes we gloss over people's efforts in the past
14 and I think you're truly an asset to this group, so
15 thank you.
16

17 MS. NAVES: Thank you.
18

19 (Applause)
20

21 MS. NAVES: Thank you. I'm happy you
22 have your money's worth. Thank you. But I'm not done
23 yet. Hold on. Moving down the list. Something that
24 we are working to update and expand is the data book.
25 So the Pacific Flyway Council has a data book and you
26 have been putting the pieces together there to have a
27 data book for the harvest survey of the AMBCC.
28

29 We had the first version that included
30 bird harvest up to 2014. Now we are working on an
31 expanded version to include also egg harvest data and
32 to include time series graph with all the data
33 available going back to 2004 for most regions, but back
34 to '85 for Y-K Delta and '95 for Bristol Bay including
35 the Goose Management Plan surveys.
36

37 It takes a bit of effort to put all
38 this together, so I was hoping to have it for this
39 meeting but it didn't happen. It will come sometime
40 soon here. The idea is to develop something that you
41 cannot date every year, but it's hard to come with
42 initial design that you can keep for a number of years.
43 So part of the effort is developing that design.
44

45 Then Item C there. One thing that I'd
46 like to highlight here is that Jackie Keating has been
47 working with me since a year. 11 September was now a
48 year that she's working with me and allegedly we are
49 able to bring her up on a full year because of the NFWF
50

1 grant for the shorebirds project but also the Division
2 of Subsistence has been putting lots of funding on her
3 position. She has been working full time for the
4 AMBCC. So having Jackie the last year has been a huge
5 help and she really has helped with a lot. For
6 instance with the data book and with this next item
7 that I'm going to talk about.

8
9 We have been updating the summaries
10 that you have for each of the surveyed regions. The
11 report is too much for the households to handle, so we
12 have a two or four page summary that compiles data from
13 the surveys for all that region. When we are doing the
14 survey, when the surveyor knock on the door, that's the
15 material that the surveyor has to offer to the
16 household regardless if they decide to participate or
17 not, but they're welcome to keep the survey materials
18 and that delivers direct to the door the survey
19 results.

20
21 So we have updated that for the five
22 regions that are regularly surveyed. We are done with
23 Y-K Delta and Bering Strait. We have the draft already
24 done for Bristol Bay. When you do this, we need the
25 Native partners to take a look and make sure that
26 everything is okay, that their contact information is
27 right there. So when you get this in the mail and ask
28 you to review it, please move forward and help us
29 expedite the process there.

30
31 The ones pending is the Bristol Bay,
32 North Slope and -- help me, Jackie. Bering Strait is
33 done. Well, we have the draft for two other regions
34 and we send those in the mail and ask your input, so
35 please help us expedite the process there with your
36 input.

37
38 I think that's it.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, the conference
43 next year.

44
45 MS. NAVES: Oh, yeah. That got bumped
46 out of our updates on the agenda. I think that's the
47 next topic in the agenda as a whole out of the.....

48
49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. So you can
50

1 keep going.

2

3 MS. NAVES: Okay, I'll keep going on.
4 So next year in June then is going to be a very big
5 research bird meeting here in Alaska. Research
6 Management. That is the meeting of the American
7 Ornithological Society. They're expecting kind of
8 about five to six hundred people from all over the
9 world to work with bird research. So it's a good
10 opportunity to have this meeting here in Anchorage and
11 for us to showcase the AMBCC's structure, how we
12 function and also the harvest assessment program.

13

14 I was planning to submit a paper for a
15 presentation at this meeting about the Harvest
16 Assessment Program, but then Patty got
17 contacted through a different channel as the Executive
18 Director of the AMBCC to host a plenary lecture. Would
19 you like to talk about that, Patty?

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. If the
22 Council can look at the last document under Tab 2,
23 there's an invitation letter from the American
24 Ornithological Society to the AMBCC. They are
25 interested in having us present a plenary lecture at
26 their meeting next June.

27

28 I got a subsequent email from John
29 Pearce that was a little bit more specific. Wants us
30 to talk about subsistence, co-management and the
31 history of the AMBCC. His email to me is on the flip
32 side of the letter. So we'll be working on that in the
33 coming months and Lili and I will be working together.
34 Then we'll share our presentation with the Council when
35 we have one finalized.

36

37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty. I
38 think that will really be an impressive opportunity.
39 As Lili mentioned, the attendance at this will be
40 somewhere between 500 people. So it's a really great
41 opportunity for individuals that have never heard about
42 subsistence on migratory birds and the importance of it
43 to Alaska residents to really be enlightened. So it's
44 quite an honor to give a plenary talk at this
45 conference, so it's a great opportunity.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 Any other questions for Lili.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Lili.

4

5 MS. NAVES: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Our next agenda is an
8 update on Steller's Eider and Spectacled Eider projects
9 and lead shot outreach. Neesha Stellrecht from the
10 Fish and Wildlife Service Fairbanks Office.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So Neesha is going to
15 start her presentation.

16

17 MS. STELLRECHT: My name is Neesha
18 Stellrecht. I work for the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife
19 Office in the Eider Recovery Program. Thank you for
20 the opportunity to provide an update. It's been a
21 while since we've been here, so I just wanted to do a
22 brief update on what the program is up to.

23

24 So this is just a picture to illustrate
25 the number of people we have working on Eiders and the
26 different things we have going on. We have a really
27 amazing group of people and students, biologists,
28 biotechs. I won't go through everybody here, but that
29 list of names is everybody we had working with us this
30 summer. And this doesn't include all the other
31 programs in Fish and Wildlife Service, which I'll
32 mention here in a second.

33

34 So just as a review we have a recovery
35 team for both Spectacled and Steller's Eiders. It's
36 the same team with mostly expertise and some
37 constituency representation on the team as well. We
38 have a recovery plan for both species, which albeit are
39 kind of old, but we still use. Fairbanks has the lead
40 for recovery for both species. Then we work with
41 multiple Service programs. Primarily with Migratory
42 Bird Management Program, the Office of Law Enforcement,
43 Refuges and External Affairs.

44

45 So we'll start with Steller's. Some
46 cool pictures there. Again, as a review, Steller's
47 Eiders were listed in 1997 due to contraction in range.
48 They virtually disappeared from the Yukon-Kuskokwim
49 Delta and it's believed that the North Slope breeding

50

1 population also contracted in range.

2

3 Currently they breed just right around
4 the Barrow area on the Arctic Coastal Plain.
5 Concentrated right around Barrow although we find pairs
6 all across the Arctic Coastal Plain. Every now and
7 then we'll find small numbers on the Yukon-Kuskokwim
8 Delta.

9

10 We believe on the Arctic Coastal Plain
11 the Alaska breeding population to be around a few
12 hundred birds to less than 1,000. We're working on
13 trying to get better abundance estimates. The Pacific
14 population again we're refining that survey as well,
15 but at a minimum we think there's roughly 30-70,000
16 birds.

17

18 The map on the left shows -- basically
19 the red is the current breeding range, so there's a
20 Russian breeding population, the Pacific population,
21 the Alaska breeding population and then the little dot
22 on the Y-K Delta where every now and then we find a
23 nest.

24

25 In the winter those birds all come
26 together to the yellow area, the molting and the
27 wintering range. They molt south of the Alaska
28 Peninsula, eastern Aleutian Islands, southern Cook
29 Inlet and then right around the Kodiak area.

30

31 So currently what we're doing with
32 Steller's Eiders is we're working on a species status
33 assessment, which is basically a synthesis of all the
34 scientific information we have out there, so Kate
35 Martin, who is changing slides here, is the one that
36 has spent pretty much the last year synthesizing all
37 that information into a report and then that report
38 will inform a five-year review decision, which is a
39 decision that we make -- a recommendation that we make
40 as to whether we want to change the classification of
41 the species, is there any new information that would
42 lead us to doing something different than what we're
43 doing now. So we are currently in the process of that.

44

45 So while we're working on the species
46 status assessment we are also working under an interim
47 goal and basically, to take us back a little bit, the
48 current recovery criteria that we have for Steller's
49 Eider requires viable sub-populations in each of the

50

1 northern and western Alaska. Therefore, we were doing
2 reintroduction, trying to establish a viable population
3 on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, which you guys have heard
4 about for the last several years.
5

6 You also heard about the decision to
7 discontinue that project and given that we're not doing
8 reintroduction and we have not found a feasible way to
9 re-establish the population on the Delta and they're
10 not re-colonizing on their own, our interim goal now is
11 to basically focus on the breeding population on the
12 Arctic Coastal Plain.
13

14 So that's what we're working on right
15 now. We have these broad objectives and multi-faceted
16 conservation program that's linked to these broad
17 objectives that were developed by the recovery program
18 with input from the recovery team. As you can see,
19 they're broad. Increase adult survival in recruitment,
20 protect habitats, monitor abundance and trends. So
21 basically everything that we're doing is to learn and
22 share and try to understand Steller's Eiders a little
23 bit more so we can try to figure out if there's ways to
24 do management.
25

26 So here's a slide of our multi-faceted
27 program. We're mostly focused on the left right now.
28 Research and monitoring to basically learn and then
29 outreach and education is a high priority for our
30 projects. We also focus on developmental planning,
31 which is what kind of the regulatory branch does. So
32 any time there's a project we review the project and
33 try to minimize impacts to listed species.
34

35 The management and recovery actions
36 we're not doing as much, so reintroduction for example
37 would have been considered a management on-the-ground
38 action, which we're no longer doing.
39

40 So for research and monitoring this is
41 all the stuff that's going on right around the Barrow
42 area, given that's where the birds are. So we continue
43 the surveys, the breeding surveys, we look for pairs of
44 Steller's and Spectacled Eiders and other sea ducks.
45 We go out and try to find nests of those birds. We're
46 basically looking at productivity, reproductive
47 biology, the fate of nests. We put cameras on nests,
48 look to see if they hatch. If they're depredated,
49 what's depredating them.
50

1 Then we also have a couple of aerial
2 surveys. Migratory Bird Management does one survey
3 across the Arctic Coastal Plain and then we also have a
4 survey that we call the ABR Aerial Triangle Survey,
5 which is a smaller area within the Arctic Coastal Plain
6 and it's flown at higher intensity.

7
8 We also have a graduate student working
9 on habitat use and nest site selection basically
10 looking to see where Steller's Eiders are nesting and
11 what food availability is in the ponds. Trying to just
12 get a better understanding with climate change and
13 everything else going on. If we can try to figure out
14 what habitats they're using so we can help protect
15 those.

16
17 We have a small-scale lemming project
18 going on. Given that lemmings seem to be the driver of
19 that ecosystem, we felt it important to try to
20 understand distribution abundance of lemmings in the
21 Barrow area.

22
23 We have a new project that we're
24 working on with drones. That's Cody there with the
25 drone. He's a graduate student that's going to be
26 looking at ways to possibly minimize disturbance
27 because we're starting to see -- more and more
28 information is coming out that researchers do cause
29 disturbance, so we're looking at ways to try to
30 minimize disturbance to nesting birds. Also looking at
31 ways to use technology to possibly do the work that we
32 do on foot. So that's a brand-new project that's going
33 to be piloted this year.

34
35 And then a couple of the things that
36 we're doing that could end up being management actions
37 is trying to understand fox behavior in the Barrow
38 area. We're certain that foxes predate a lot of nests,
39 but it's unclear whether we have specific foxes that
40 are doing most of the damage and so we're trying to get
41 an understanding of fox occupancy and depredation by
42 foxes.

43
44 The other thing we're looking at we
45 have an avian predation project going on where we're
46 putting covers over nests to see if we can find ways to
47 minimize avian predation on Steller's and Spectacled
48 Eider nests.

49
50

1 The outreach and education efforts.
2 Again, the focus is students. We're doing what we can
3 to involve as many students as we can. So this year we
4 had -- in the top left Aerial Snyder was an ANSEP
5 Bridge student. To the right, Randall Friendly, who is
6 going to present after me, is an ANSEP student into his
7 senior year. In the middle there are three local
8 Barrow students, so we work closely with Barrow high
9 school students on our projects. On the right is
10 another Barrow high school student.

11
12 On the bottom left is Jaden. He's from
13 Kipnuk, another ANSEP student that we had this summer.
14 Then on the left, Stacey, worked on the lemming
15 project, a Barrow high school student. Then in the
16 middle is Ernest Nageak, our liaison, who does a
17 wonderful job of working with students and recruiting
18 students and taking students out and just being Uncle
19 Ernest. So he's very helpful to our programs in
20 Barrow.

21
22 Then the other outreach we have going
23 on, which we've been doing for years, is Migratory Bird
24 Calendar Contest we run every year. We have several
25 community events, open house, bird fairs and then we do
26 kind of the live outreach, giving what the birds are
27 doing. So we have flyers that go up, signs, public
28 service announcements, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

29
30 So for Steller's next steps we continue
31 to review the ongoing projects that we have. We are
32 fortunate now to have biometricians at our side that
33 are helping us review projects and helping us
34 understand if we're actually getting the information
35 that we're trying to get when we collect all the data.
36 We're finishing up the species status assessment. That
37 will inform the five-year review that has to be done by
38 the end of this year.

39
40 Then once we have all of that done,
41 that will help inform where we go in the longer term.
42 So we'll go through a structured process to develop a
43 longer-term strategy, which we don't know. It may lead
44 to a new recovery plan or new ideas for how we manage
45 Steller's Eiders. So that's where we are with those.

46
47 Kate, do you want to add anything to
48 Steller's?

49
50

1 MS. MARTIN: No.

2

3 MS. STELLRECHT: Good. Okay. On the
4 Specs I'll defer to Kate here because she is the Eider
5 expert and knows this better than I do, but I'm going
6 to give it a shot and she'll fill in where I leave
7 stuff out.

8

9 Next slide. Okay. Again, as a review,
10 they were listed in 1993 due to significant contraction
11 in the range on the Delta and it was thought that they
12 also contracted on the North Slope. Distribution,
13 there's three distinct breeding areas in red; the Y-K
14 Delta, the Arctic Coastal Plain and then a Russian
15 breeding population. The green areas on that map are
16 where they molt and then in the winter they go to that
17 yellow area south of St. Lawrence Island and holes,
18 polynyas, in the ice.

19

20 Abundance estimates. We have a global
21 population estimate of roughly 360,000 birds. The
22 North Slope and the YKD estimates I'm going to defer to
23 Julian because I think he might present that, but we're
24 basically trying to improve those abundance estimates
25 so I didn't put any numbers here because we're in the
26 process of coming up with those numbers.

27

28 It's just a fun picture of all the
29 birds south of St. Lawrence Island.

30

31 So the strategy for Spectacled Eiders
32 is basically we're continuing to monitor population
33 abundance, trends, vital rates. We have the aerial and
34 the nest surveys that Julian's shop does on the Yukon-
35 Kuskokwim Delta. We have an aerial survey on the
36 Arctic Coastal Plain. We do ground base monitoring in
37 Barrow along with the Steller's Eider project. Like I
38 mentioned, we develop visibility correction factors and
39 those are to help us get better abundance estimates on
40 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Arctic Coastal Plain.

41

42 Then the other thing that we're going
43 to do in the spring of 2019 is another survey of the
44 global population, so the last global population survey
45 was conducted in 2010 and we received some funding to
46 do that project again. So this summer we were out on
47 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta capturing and putting
48 transmitters in Spectacled Eiders because they go to
49 such a large area in the Bering Sea that you need the

50

1 birds with transmitters to be able to locate the flocks
2 to then do that survey. So that will be happening this
3 spring.

4
5 And then like Steller's Eider's
6 minimized take, we're trying to reduce illegal harvest,
7 get people to comply with the lead shot bans and
8 minimize impacts through the Section 7 consultation
9 process that we have.

10
11 Kate, do you want to do this one?

12
13 MS. MARTIN: Sure.

14
15 MS. STELLRECHT: Well, just a little
16 more information on this survey if you want. This was
17 a pretty big effort this summer, so it's worth sharing.

18
19 MS. MARTIN: So Neesha explained that
20 we are interested in repeating the global population
21 survey where we go out in the winter and survey the
22 birds in their habitat south of St. Lawrence Island in
23 the sea ice. In order to do that safely and
24 effectively we put transmitters in a subset of birds
25 from the Y-K Delta so we could actually find those
26 flocks because it's a big area.

27
28 So this summer we went out right when
29 the birds are starting to arrive on the Y-K Delta and
30 when there's still some ice on the ponds and a little
31 bit of snow and the birds came in. We put up mist nets
32 and ended up catching 39 Steller's Eiders, 30 of which
33 were females and 9 males, at two different sites on the
34 Y-K Delta.

35
36 Used great help from two different
37 veterinarians from Florida. One from the Miami Zoo and
38 one from Busch Gardens to help us implant the
39 transmitters safely into the birds. Had great success
40 with that. So far I think we have perhaps one
41 mortality.

42
43 The other kind of side project that we
44 have there is to look at locations during the winter.
45 We think that this winter may also be another winter of
46 low sea ice. We're not sure exactly what the birds are
47 going to do when they don't have sea ice constraining
48 their movements. They also may be affected by not
49 having that sea ice to roost on.

50

1 So it will just be interesting for us
2 to see where the birds go. If they stay in the same
3 areas that they used to stay in when there was more sea
4 ice when we did these surveys.

5
6 Am I missing anything?

7
8 MS. STELLRECHT: No, I don't think so.

9
10 MS. MARTIN: Okay. Yeah.

11
12 MR. FAGERSTROM: During the winter
13 they're diving for clams. How is the health of the
14 clam beds?

15
16 MS. MARTIN: I'm not sure that I can
17 speak to the health of the clam beds. I think in
18 general there may be some shifts in the benthic
19 community in that area where maybe there are different
20 species or the abundance may have changed, but I'm not
21 sure that we necessarily know what the health of the
22 clam species is right now. We do think there would be
23 effects with the warming climate of changing abundance
24 in a community.

25
26 MR. HARRIS: I understand research is
27 important. With this research were you able to do any
28 comparisons with like Nunivak North? I mean they do
29 study some of these. I've watched a documentary on
30 FNX, First Nations Experience, where this guy camped
31 out in the ice for days and practically the winter just
32 watching these birds. Any comparisons to their
33 studies?

34
35 MS. MARTIN: Well, I do know that -- I
36 believe that's with Common Eiders and I've seen that
37 same documentary, I believe. We don't necessarily have
38 observations of the birds on the sea ice such that he
39 did where he was looking at diet composition and that
40 sort of thing. It would be very interesting and he is
41 a tough guy to sit out there on the sea ice and watch
42 those birds. He had video cameras down in the water.

43
44 It might be interesting to see what
45 changes they've seen since that documentary was made to
46 now. That could help us understand a little bit more.

47
48 MR. DEVINE: Thank you. Jack raised a
49 pretty important question with the health of the clams
50

1 because in Sand Point we're actively monitoring our PSP
2 levels in the area. They say 80 parts per million or
3 60 to 80 you can consume them. Our levels have been
4 like 160 and as high as 680. I've noticed that the
5 flock that hangs out on the north end of our islands
6 kind of disappeared two years ago.

7
8 We've been three years without eating
9 clams in Sand Point. We get them from King Cove, but
10 King Cove has reported and documented red tide in their
11 lagoon this year. The first time they've ever seen it.
12 There should be some -- I mean we need to sample food
13 sources that these birds are utilizing and might help
14 understand the overall picture.

15
16 MS. MARTIN: Yeah, I agree. Both Peter
17 and Jack had very good points and they are things that
18 we should be researching and hopefully we can do in the
19 future. I think understanding their distribution in
20 those areas will help us because we may be able to
21 compare that distribution with benthic samples that
22 have been done in the area in the past. I'm not aware
23 of any new studies that are planned for that area, but
24 hopefully we can work with some of the recovery team
25 members and others to bring that up and find funding
26 for it.

27
28 Thank you for your comments.

29
30 MS. STELLRECHT: A few more slides and
31 we'll finish up. For Spectacled Eiders again we've
32 developed visibility correction factors and we're
33 working with mig birds on abundance estimates. Once we
34 have those we'll access the status of the population in
35 relation to the current recovery criteria. We're
36 thinking about data gaps and whether there are any data
37 gaps that we want to fill for Spectacled Eiders before
38 we take on the species status assessment, which will be
39 the next thing we do for Spectacled Eiders after the
40 Steller's Eider assessment is complete.

41
42 So that's it for Eiders. I wanted to
43 throw out a reminder that lead shot is showing up again
44 or maybe it was never completely gone. I don't think
45 we need to convince this group that lead shot is bad.
46 I think that's out there. We're not getting a whole
47 lot of people that are arguing that lead shot is bad.
48 We've been presenting on it that it's not good, we
49 shouldn't be using it. It's not good for birds. It's
50

1 not good for humans.

2

3 So we're back at this. We've been at
4 lead shot for a lot of years. Recently we found it
5 again. I'm sure it's been there. This is five stores
6 that have piles and piles of lead shot that's being
7 bought, deposited into the wetlands and it's not good
8 for birds.

9

10 I'm looking for help. I spend most of
11 my time on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and on the North
12 Slope. I think at the North Slope we're at a very good
13 place right now. There was one store that refused to
14 quit selling it. He has agreed to not sell it. It's
15 no longer in that store. We've had the North Slope
16 Borough Department of Wildlife checking all the other
17 stores. I think we're free and clear on the North
18 Slope the last time I checked.

19

20 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is a bit of a
21 different story, so we're working that area. I don't
22 spend a lot of time in the rest of the areas that all
23 you represent, but if you could check your stores, make
24 sure it's out of there. If it's not, maybe a reminder.

25

26 Our plan right now is to basically try
27 to figure out where all it is. Instead of going to all
28 the villages that we can think of, we're trying to
29 figure out what stores do have it. Go to those
30 villages, do outreach, talk to the store owners, see if
31 we can get it out of there. If we can't get it out of
32 there, then likely enforcement is going to be going to
33 these places, writing a few tickets to get people's
34 attention and remind them that we're not doing lead
35 shot anymore.

36

37 So an update on that. I was a little
38 disappointed. I thought we were further along than I
39 think maybe we are. So we're working that and I would
40 really appreciate help from members on this Council.

41

42 This is just cases and cases and cases
43 of lead shot. One of our biometricians was very
44 curious as to how much this might actually be, so he
45 did the magic that biometricians do and came up with
46 about half a ton of lead shot sitting in the store to
47 be bought and deposited in one of the number one
48 waterfowl bird, water bird refuges that we have on this
49 planet.

50

1 One interesting point I'll mention too
2 with the project that Kate was talking about. We were
3 on Kigigak Island. We set up our decoys, set up the
4 nets. We caught the first bird, gave it -- it wasn't
5 the anesthesia that killed it, was it? It was the.....
6

7 MS. MARTIN: It was the sedation, yeah.
8

9 MS. STELLRECHT: The sedation, okay.
10 So sedated the bird, the bird died. Normally the birds
11 don't die. We couldn't figure out why the bird died.
12 Cut it open to do a necropsy. It had a yellow abnormal
13 liver, which is oftentimes an indication of lead and
14 sure enough there was a lead pellet embedded into that
15 liver. So the bird was shot, which it shouldn't have
16 been shot because it was a Spectacled Eider. It was
17 shot with lead shot, which it shouldn't have been shot
18 with lead shot. It made it through the shot. It
19 survived the shot. It got embedded in the liver, but
20 then couldn't handle the sedation.
21

22 Perhaps that's coincidence, but maybe
23 not. There's probably a lot more birds with lead shot
24 in them and it kills them. So help me get lead shot
25 out, please.
26

27 MR. ADAMS: How many more other birds
28 have been killed in research other than that?
29

30 MS. MARTIN: For that project. So we
31 captured 40 Spectacled Eiders during that project and
32 one of the females died that Neesha was talking about
33 that had lead poisoning and then one other died on the
34 surgery table as a result of what they call capture
35 myopathy, which is a stress of capture. Other than
36 that there was another mortality that may have occurred
37 since then, but it could have been of natural causes.
38

39 MR. ADAMS: I just wanted to let it be
40 known that for generations and generations that the
41 Native people that knew about these birds knew about
42 their numbers in the hundreds of thousands. Normally
43 we don't hunt these Eiders, but we depend on
44 Common and King Eiders for celebrations and things like
45 that in our cultural ways. We've respected those
46 Spectacled Eiders. It's hard to understand when
47 there's so many hundreds of thousands of them and we
48 can't use them for food.
49
50

1 You know, those are the kind of
2 questions that are on people's minds. There are better
3 ways to get lead shot out of your communities without
4 the heavy hand of the law enforcement that comes to
5 communities. They put fear into young children. We've
6 seen that happen before. If you want to do something
7 good, there are better ways to do them than to use
8 force.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. FAGERSTROM: I live in Golovin and
13 we have an opportunity to hunt upland birds, grouse,
14 ptarmigan and we also harvest sea birds, geese and
15 ducks. You're going to take all the lead out of the
16 stores?

17
18 MS. STELLRECHT: No. That's a good
19 point, Jack, which I forgot to mention. On the North
20 Slope and on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta it's banned for
21 all bird hunting. On the Delta for small game hunting
22 as well. So on the North Slope and the Yukon-Kuskokwim
23 Delta there's no use for lead shot. You're right
24 though. In your area it is legal to use for upland
25 birds, so it won't be coming out of the stores.

26
27 I would say it's not a good thing to
28 use and if at some point we can get away from using
29 lead shot period for anything, it would be, I think, a
30 better place to be, but that's not obviously my
31 decision to make. But, you're right, it's legal to use
32 for uplands birds where you are, and so it won't be
33 coming out of the stores.

34
35 I think the size of the shot is
36 different for what you would use for upland versus
37 waterfowl. So what's unfortunate is when we see
38 waterfowl loads in the stores because then one would
39 assume it's being used for waterfowl, but that's a
40 pretty difficult thing to tackle as far as having
41 certain size shots in the stores.

42
43 So I would just encourage folks to make
44 sure it's not being used for waterfowl because it's
45 those habitats that we don't want lead shot in, but
46 lead is a poison.

47
48 MR. ADAMS: You know, I'd like to thank
49 Neesha for traveling to Barrow for many years and work
50

1 with the young children on these projects. You know,
2 the outreach to the young children and going to the
3 schools is very important. We do our part in our
4 department with Todd and Bryan and our leadership there
5 and going to schools is a big start.
6

7 Having these bird fears is a positive
8 way to communicate with hunters and trading the lead
9 shot for steel is a really good vehicle to get the lead
10 shot out of communities and reaching out to the stores
11 and like you said about -- I know you can't get all of
12 it out, but you can get most of it out.
13

14 MS. STELLRECHT: Thank you, Billy.
15

16 MR. MAYO: Yeah, I just appreciate the
17 information health-wise what lead can do to birds and
18 people. I think it's really important because a lot of
19 times in the past we didn't have information as to the
20 effects of like lead and other things that can really
21 affect people and animal health.
22

23 I remember when I was a kid even one of
24 the elders at my home town were out at a bird hunting
25 place and even he mentioned that over the generations
26 since he was a kid people had always hunted there. I
27 remember even at that time that was quite a while ago
28 he mentioned over the generations all of the lead
29 pellets that were shot out over at that site and ended
30 up deposited in that bird area, you know. I mean even
31 at that time he knew that it would have a negative
32 effect, you know.
33

34 MS. STELLRECHT: Thank you, Randy. I
35 just want to comment real quick on Billy's comment that
36 there's better ways to get lead out and possibly not
37 using law enforcement. I don't disagree at all that
38 bringing in the heavy hands is not necessarily the way
39 to go. I will say with lead shot this particular issue
40 we've been at it a long, long time and I have talked to
41 the groups where we've talked about bringing in
42 enforcement and they've agreed that it's time to bring
43 in enforcement.
44

45 So we're trying the outreach approach
46 again, talking to store owners, doing our public
47 meetings, letting people know how bad it is, but if we
48 can't get it out of there, I think 20 years later we're
49 at a place where writing a couple of tickets might be
50

1 the way to go.

2

3 MS. CHERNOFF: I have a question. Has
4 lead been banned in fishing gear, sinkers. I don't
5 know what they call those big sinkers for.....

6

7 MS. STELLRECHT: No.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF:dragging and
10 trawling and all kinds of stuff.

11

12 MS. STELLRECHT: No, the only thing
13 it's been banned for is waterfowl hunting, which it was
14 banned in 1991. There's a ton of information out there
15 on lead, sinkers, bullets, you name it. Actually the
16 Department of Health and Social Services is on a
17 campaign right now, no level of lead is safe campaign,
18 and they're putting out all kinds of information on why
19 lead is bad. I think because there's such a market for
20 lead it's really tough to get it out of our
21 environment.

22

23 MS. CHERNOFF: So kind of funny story,
24 but probably not real funny. Growing up we had an old
25 World War II Quonsets and stuff left and we lived in an
26 old Quonset growing up and there was other old falling
27 down Quonsets, but there was these big lead bars all
28 the time and then of course my dad fished, but we
29 played with those things all growing up and then we
30 used to take -- I don't know what it was. The softness
31 of lead. I used to chew on little lead. So I've
32 chewed on and played with lead for probably 14 years of
33 my childhood. So cross my fingers.

34

35 MR. RAMOTH, JR.: I've got a question.
36 I see your studies being done up in North Slope and Y-K
37 Delta. The Northwest we've got the largest lead and
38 zinc mine. I was wondering if anything was being
39 tested there because it's close to the coast where they
40 ship them out. That's probably where the Steller's
41 Eiders are at.

42

43 MS. STELLRECHT: So, yeah, most of our
44 work is on the North Slope and the Yukon-Kuskokwim
45 Delta. I'm not aware of any research we're doing in
46 Northwest.

47

48 MR. RAMOTH, JR.: You know, the amount
49 of lead, because I've worked there before, with that

50

1 half a ton we can make that in half a day up there.
2 You can imagine 365 days a week they make that lead and
3 zinc.

4
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Neesha and
6 Kate. Any other questions from the Council.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So I'm going to
11 recommend a five-minute break to grab some coffee and
12 use the restrooms. I do encourage if you have
13 additional questions that you'd like to talk to Kate or
14 Neesha, trap them. We also have Dave Rippeto with the
15 Office of Law Enforcement. Dave, can you raise your
16 hand back there. So if you have any questions for
17 Dave, please find and seek him out.

18
19 We'll reconvene in about five minutes.
20 Thanks.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26
27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We have a
28 presentation by Randall Friendly who is an ANSEP
29 student, Alaska Native Engineering and Science Program.
30 So if all the Council members could please take your
31 seat.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, Randall,
36 the floor is yours. If you could hit the button on the
37 microphone.

38
39 MR. FRIENDLY: My name is Randall
40 Friendly. I'm from Tuntutuliak, Alaska. If you guys
41 don't know where that is, that's about 40 miles south
42 from Bethel. I'm attending school here at UAA. A
43 senior this year and I'm majoring in biological science
44 and minoring in mathematics. It's going to be a short
45 presentation about my experience with the Fish and
46 Wildlife Service and what I learned and the projects
47 I've been involved in. Maybe you guys heard of them.

48
49 Next slide, Neesha. The first project
50

1 I was involved in working with waterfowl was the
2 Steller's Eider Reintroduction Project that was in
3 2016. That project Fish and Wildlife was trying to
4 reintroduce Steller's Eiders on the Yukon Delta. This
5 is I guess one of my favorite projects I've ever been
6 on. I learned a lot about waterfowl and their ecology.
7 I worked with great people and got some good
8 experience. That's when I like fell in love with
9 working with waterfowl. That summer I realized I
10 wanted to work with this kind of stuff.

11
12 Next slide. One other favorite project
13 that I've been on was the capture-mark-recapture
14 project at Yukon Delta. I was working with Bryan
15 Daniels. This was a very cool project because like I
16 see Emperor Geese and to me it's like probably my
17 favorite goose species. We'd search aging eggs and all
18 that. I thought it was pretty cool. It was on Kigigak
19 Island. That's one of my favorite places in the world
20 to be.

21
22 Next slide. This you guys just see
23 Neesha and Kate, but I was involved in this Spectacled
24 Eider satellite telemetry in winter for the abundance
25 systems and out there we were just capturing Spectacled
26 Eiders, banding them and putting satellite transmitters
27 in them. It was another cool project because getting
28 some new experiences, meeting new people. Meeting new
29 people was great because you know like you'll meet
30 these experts that will teach you and they'll be very
31 willing to teach you and that's an awesome environment
32 to be in.

33
34 Next slide. This summer I was at
35 Barrow and it was marine biology of Steller's Eider and
36 Spectacled Eider. Neesha just presented about that.
37 It was another cool project, an interesting project.
38 It had a unique place I've never been on. It was very
39 cool. From my experience I thought it was awesome to
40 see a sun never set for the whole summer.

41
42 This summer like I learned a lot about
43 like the waterfowl ecologies and like the habitat
44 selection and nest selection and you know like for each
45 species you know where this waterfowl might nest here
46 or there and that stuff. There was a lot of nest
47 surveys we'd done and that was to determine, you know,
48 the survival of the nests and the habitat used and a
49 lot of hiking, which I liked because I love hiking.

50

1 Next slide. Throughout the years every
2 since like I started working with waterfowl I try to be
3 involved with the Cackler and duck banding projects on
4 the Yukon Delta. This is one of the fun projects or
5 fun summertime windows I like to be in because, you
6 know, you're out there handling a lot of birds and
7 banding a lot of birds. I enjoy that a lot. I think
8 it's awesome to do these things.

9
10 That's all I have. Qu yana.

11
12 (Applause)

13
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randall.
15 Any questions for Randall. Helen.

16
17 MS. ADERMAN: I like the concept of you
18 doing the capture-mark-recapture with Emperor Geese.
19 In the early 2000s we did the same similar project with
20 the Bristol Bay beluga whales in the Kvichak River. So
21 I'm glad this is being applied to other species.

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Randall, I'm jealous.
24 I've been at this for several decades. You've been at
25 this for a couple years and you've been able to handle
26 more and different species than I have in my entire
27 career. So I have to ask you a question. You've
28 worked with Pintails, Cacklers, Emperors, Steller's
29 Eiders and Spectacled Eiders. I've got to ask you
30 what's your favorite bird that you've worked with.

31
32 MR. FRIENDLY: Umm, I don't know.
33 It's.....

34
35 MS. STELLRECHT: (Whispering).

36
37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Don't accept any
38 payment from Neesha. The donuts are free. You can
39 have as many as you want.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. FRIENDLY: It's very hard to say.
44 For goose in particular I like the Emperor Goose and
45 for ducks I really like the Long-tailed duck and it was
46 good to see in Barrow a lot of it and also got to band
47 one over there, so that was one of the highlights of
48 the summer. I also liked working with the Spectacled
49 Eider. You know, like the males have like -- the male
50

1 plumage they have pretty colors, but I think the female
2 Spectacled Eider, even though it's like brown, I think
3 it's a pretty bird.

4
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You actually do get
6 an extra donut because I worked on Long-tailed ducks in
7 my graduate work, so you are a champion of birds.

8
9 Anyway, I do want to mention Randall is
10 a great example of the Alaska Native Science and
11 Engineering Program that's housed in the University of
12 Alaska Fairbanks. The Fish and Wildlife Service is
13 really encouraging that program. It's an excellent way
14 to get rural youth excited and involved in biological
15 sciences, wildlife management, fisheries ecology. All
16 the things that they live and see on every day, but
17 oftentimes they're not aware of a career that they can
18 do this for life and a profession.

19
20 So I encourage all of you that if you
21 have students that you know that are excited about this
22 potential career, please contact the Fish and Wildlife
23 Service. We are funding that program. We're heavily
24 involved with it and Randall is a great example of a
25 success.

26
27 Thank you very much for taking the time
28 for the presentation.

29
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I'll get
31 out of Gayla's way here. Next on the agenda we have a
32 fall/winter subsistence harvest season discussion. I
33 think Gayla is going to lead us through that.

34
35 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 didn't know I was leading, but I can. We had our fall
37 and winter Harvest Survey Committee and I guess I could
38 start with that before we get into the discussion.

39
40 We had kind of a lengthy discussion
41 regarding our fall and winter dates being recognized
42 for subsistence and that we don't have to fall under
43 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's sport rules
44 for the fall time.

45
46 So the take-aways that we have from the
47 committee and what we're going to be doing for all the
48 local partners is we're going to review the 2002 U.S.
49 Fish and Wildlife Service hunting dates of the data
50

1 that has been identified in each region for traditional
2 hunting dates, but those are mainly focused on the
3 spring and summer from our conversations of when
4 traditional hunts would be for that. The Alaska
5 Department of Fish and Game Subsistence has technical
6 papers with documented hunt dates for year round
7 hunting for migratory birds.

8
9 So we're going to review those. We're
10 going to bring them back to our regional bodies and get
11 input on those dates from our regions to make sure that
12 those are the accurate dates for traditional hunting
13 dates in the individual regions.

14
15 This is going to be a working committee
16 throughout the winter and we're going to have our next
17 teleconference meeting on November 13th at 1:30. The
18 SRC is also meeting on October 16th to the 17th and
19 Patty will bring awareness to the SRC that we are
20 pursuing fall/winter subsistence dates.

21
22 So that's kind of a quick overview that
23 we really want to get the fall and winter subsistence
24 dates recognized here and then we'll open it up to
25 discussion and get some more feedback from the Council
26 on these dates.

27
28 That's pretty much all I had from the
29 committee.

30
31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.
32 Any questions for Gayla.

33
34 Bruce.

35
36 MR. DALE: I just have a comment or an
37 informational note. The State seasons are intended to
38 provide subsistence opportunity and I think that the
39 Board of Game has recognized that with the recent
40 adoption of some salvage requirements as requested in a
41 proposal from the Native Caucus as well as the ability
42 to proxy for Emperor Geese. This is a direct
43 reflection that there is subsistence opportunity in the
44 general seasons. In general we don't use the term
45 sport because most State opportunity also provides
46 subsistence opportunity.

47
48 So that said, in the interim, while the
49 Federal government -- you know, as you know with the
50

1 other regulations we've changed with the Federal
2 government, it takes some time. In the interim, if
3 their subsistence needs are not being met, you should
4 submit proposals to the Board of Game and our staff
5 will be glad to help you craft those proposals to make
6 sure that seasons and bag limits reflect subsistence
7 needs. State law requires that it reflects those
8 subsistence needs. So we'd be glad to do that.

9
10 Upcoming deadlines for meetings which
11 are held regionally with the Board of Game, Region 1
12 Southeast, and Region 2, which is Southcentral,
13 including Cordova area. Those proposals were due May
14 1st, but there's an agenda change request deadline
15 where you could possibly get proposals in from that
16 area or anywhere statewide of November 1st.

17
18 So if there's some State regulations,
19 fall regulations that need to be changed, please
20 contact me or Jason Schamber and we'll help craft those
21 proposals. In addition, the next deadline that you
22 should be aware of is that for Region 3 Interior and
23 Region 5, which is Northwest Alaska, that deadline for
24 regular proposals is May 1st.

25
26 Again, you can talk to your local
27 office. The Board has been very receptive I think.
28 Patty and Gayla would agree that they did adopt those
29 last two proposals, so that's another avenue for making
30 sure that your subsistence needs are met.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Bruce, can I ask a
33 clarification. The Region 3 and Region 5 area, when is
34 the deadline due for that?

35
36 MR. DALE: Those proposals are due May
37 1st. The proposal forms are online or you can get them
38 at any office or just send us an email and we'll get
39 them to you.

40
41 MS. HOSETH: A follow up. Yes, it was
42 really great at the Board of Game and I think that
43 Jason is going to be reporting on that. I think the
44 importance here of the Native Caucus is that we're not
45 tied to bag limits and we're not tied to hours that we
46 can hunt and it can stick to our traditional
47 subsistence practices for hunting.

48
49 For the wanton waste, that was to the
50

1 edible parts of that bird and we were very happy that
2 the Board of Game adopted the edible meat/wanton waste
3 extension for the swan, geese and cranes. So that
4 wasn't for subsistence. Those are really good edible
5 pieces and we were trying to line it up with what we
6 have for the subsistence.

7
8 It's really important that we continue
9 our subsistence harvest and our traditional ways and
10 not be tied to bag limits. I think that we've said it
11 over the years here how really difficult it is for
12 rural residents in the state of Alaska to be living in
13 dual management areas and finding out which rules we're
14 under, State/Federal.

15
16 We have all these regulations and all
17 these -- you know, this envelope of Ziploc baggies that
18 we have to have for licenses and permits it's really
19 cumbersome and we don't want to -- we want people to be
20 able to practice our traditional ways, so we're really
21 going to work on these fall and winter subsistence
22 dates and hopefully we can -- I know it's been a work
23 in progress for a number of years.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.
28 Helen, can you please come to the microphone.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MS. ADERMAN: So if an elder has their
33 lifetime State of Alaska -- what do you call that
34 permit now? We don't have to get no licenses. We can
35 just go out there and harvest our stuff, right?

36
37 MR. DALE: Yeah, permit identification.

38
39 MS. ADERMAN: Yeah. We could go out
40 there and get -- but we still have to follow the open
41 and closed seasons?

42
43 MR. DALE: That's correct.

44
45 MS. ADERMAN: Oh, I see. Okay.

46 Thanks. Darn.

47
48 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Randy.

2
3 MR. MAYO: Under this kind of related
4 topic I thought it was pretty good that in Fairbanks
5 they opened up Tanana Lake to hunting for the regular
6 sport fall hunt. You know where Tanana Lake is. It's
7 just right there in town, you know. I thought that was
8 pretty good, you know. A lot of those animals they
9 know kind of where they're safe and they want to stay
10 in town. A lot of people need something to eat, you
11 know. I was going to go over there too and take a
12 look.

13
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other questions
15 or comments for Gayla. Gayla.

16
17 MS. HOSETH: I just wanted to say how
18 -- and I don't want to speak for Peter and Coral here,
19 but especially for their region for the fall and winter
20 subsistence dates for Emperor Goose harvest. They hunt
21 in the fall and winter and they have to abide by the
22 State regulations and with -- where it's not a
23 traditional subsistence hunt where we have that in the
24 spring and summer in our region and then the Y-K Delta.
25 With the proxy hunting, I mean it's just the one bird
26 with the one permit for Emperor Goose, which we're glad
27 that the proxy hunt is available for that.

28
29 But that's why it's so important is
30 because especially with the Emperor Goose harvest being
31 opened up statewide where the Emperor Geese winter in
32 Peter and Coral's region and for them to not be able to
33 traditionally harvest these birds is one of the reasons
34 why we want to fix these dates.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other questions
37 or comments from the Council.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right, Gayla.
42 Thank you. Coral.

43
44 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, just expanding on
45 what Gayla said. I'm not sure everyone is aware of our
46 Emperors. So the subsistence season for us opens April
47 2nd. Our Emperors are there until -- they usually
48 leave between the 22nd and the 24th. So we have a
49 two-and-a-half, three week window. Of course, as we
50

1 know, we can't always get out because of weather, work,
2 time constraints, in and out of town. So we have that
3 itty bitty window for subsistence.

4
5 Then in town we also have -- we're
6 restricted to be 500 feet offshore, so a lot of the
7 Emperors all day long they're feeding along the
8 beaches. You can drive by them and drool a little and
9 that's about all you can do. So it is difficult for
10 us. Once again I'll bring up the road system issue
11 that we're working on and then we definitely have time
12 constraints for our hunting season.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Coral.
17 Peter.

18
19 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
20 have in the past put in a proposal for hunting dates, I
21 believe, and we streamlined it to fit into the dates
22 that we needed. I'll just have to find it, dust it off
23 and resubmit it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Any other
26 comments, questions for Gayla.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Thank
31 you. We'll move on to new business. First item under
32 new business is the Solicitor's opinion on the
33 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This hit the news in early
34 2018 and there's been a lot of questions particularly
35 relative to how the Fish and Wildlife Service is
36 viewing incidental take associated with the Migratory
37 Bird Treaty Act. Incidental take is defined as take
38 not associated with direct take. So direct take would
39 be like harvest. Incidental take would be a bird
40 landing in an oil pit for example or a bird being
41 impacted by construction.

42
43 So what I've asked -- I think Gayla
44 asked for this agenda item and I certainly agreed with
45 it because there's been a lot of questions. There's
46 been a lot of articles in the paper. I received a lot
47 of calls from industry in terms of how this would
48 potentially affect their activities.

1 So I've asked Todd Sanders, who works
2 directly with our headquarters office to provide a
3 couple slides to kind of provide the Council an
4 overview so that you understand how the Department of
5 Interior and particularly the Fish and Wildlife Service
6 is viewing incidental take and the Migratory Bird
7 Treaty Act.

8
9 Todd, can you please come forward.

10
11 MR. SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I'm Todd Sanders. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
13 Service, Migratory Bird Program at headquarters. As
14 Eric introduced, I've been asked to give a brief
15 overview of the Department of Interior's interpretation
16 of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and also how the Fish
17 and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program is
18 implementing that interpretation.

19
20 The Department of Interior Solicitor's
21 Office recently released a legal opinion that the
22 Migratory Bird Treaty Act does not prohibit incidental
23 take of migratory birds or their eggs. Incidental take
24 is defined as take that directly results from an
25 activity but is not the purpose of an activity. In
26 other words, it's non-purposeful take or incidental or
27 accidental or unintentional take.

28
29 The Migratory Bird Treaty Act would
30 still prohibit purposeful take or intentional take
31 unless it's authorized by either permit or regulation.
32 So this opinion was issued in December of 2017. This
33 opinion reversed an earlier opinion that was issued by
34 the Department of Interior. It also reversed a Fish
35 and Wildlife Service policy that was associated with
36 this opinion. It also reversed 50 years of practice by
37 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

38
39 This opinion applies specifically to
40 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It does not apply to
41 other Federal regulations. For example, the Endangered
42 Species Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection
43 Act. This opinion also does not apply to state laws
44 and regulations. As I understand it, there's about 15
45 states that have regulations that specifically address
46 incidental take, so those regulations are not impacted
47 by this interpretation.

48
49 So, for the Fish and Wildlife Service
50

1 we are implementing this opinion primarily based on
2 either partnerships or voluntary guidance.
3 Specifically, three examples here of how we are
4 applying this. The Fish and Wildlife Service conducts
5 an assessment of the impacts to the human environment
6 and birds are part of that human environment. We do
7 this for any Federal proposed projects that go through
8 the National Environmental Policy Act process. So
9 that's unchanged.

10

11 We also work with our partners through
12 voluntary guidance, so any partner or any individual
13 that is interested in addressing incidental take of
14 migratory birds the Fish and Wildlife Service would
15 work with them to do that. We work with a number of
16 partners. Not only the Federal government but also
17 individuals in industry to do that.

18

19 Finally, the Fish and Wildlife Service
20 has developed best management practices to address some
21 of these incidental take issues. For example, building
22 glass collision, wind industry and so on. So these are
23 on our website and so they are accessible to industry
24 and others that want to try and reduce impacts to
25 migratory birds through incidental take.

26

27 This slide shows sources of mortality
28 for migratory birds. This is the best information we
29 have to date. What you can see is that there is
30 substantial loss of migratory birds annually in the
31 United States. The top causes of mortality are free-
32 ranging cats, building glass collisions and vehicle
33 collisions. That accounts for over 2 million birds
34 annually.

35

36 The other sources of mortality here are
37 primarily industry related. Our best estimate of
38 industry related loss annually in the United States is
39 somewhere between a half a billion to a billion
40 migratory birds. To help put these numbers into
41 perspective, the annual take of waterfowl in the United
42 States from hunting regulations is about 15 million
43 birds a year. So you can see where that would fall in
44 here.

45

46 Now, of course, the majority of these
47 birds here are not game birds. The majority of these
48 birds are most likely non-game birds. Regardless, you
49 can see that the loss of birds annually is substantial.

50

1 So there is conservation value in trying to reduce
2 these mortalities to the extent possible. That's what
3 the Fish and Wildlife Service is striving to do through
4 partnerships and also through voluntary guidance.

5
6 That concludes my presentation, Eric,
7 and I'll do the best I can to answer any questions if
8 there are questions.

9
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Randy.

11
12 MR. MAYO: I was reading some
13 information earlier about this. Is this the result
14 that's coming out of the rollback regulations from the
15 Trump Administration? That's where it's coming, right?

16
17 MR. SANDERS: This is a recent
18 interpretation. It's a re-interpretation of the
19 Migratory Bird Treaty Act by the Department of
20 Interior. That is under the new Administration.

21
22 MR. MAYO: Okay. I think that I was
23 just reading an article where some of the states down
24 south are fighting this ruling because of the economic
25 impacts and other things and a giveaway to industry.
26 So I just wanted to kind of get this clarified in my
27 mind, you know.

28
29 MR. SANDERS: Yeah. So this does give
30 some certainty to industry about the probability of
31 being prosecuted for incidental take.

32
33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Billy and then Bruce.

34
35 MR. ADAMS: That's a lot of birds.
36 Look at the cats. Billions. This is mostly pigeons?

37
38 MR. SANDERS: I'm not sure what birds.
39 I don't think it's mostly pigeons. It's a variety of
40 birds. Land birds.

41
42 MR. ADAMS: There's one cat in my
43 village and they hunt continually. Just because the
44 birds are there they're going to go kill it. That
45 thing will take birds back home to its master. I don't
46 know. You feed a dog, that dog thinks you're a god.
47 You feed a cat, it thinks it's god. But they're a
48 machine. They're a killing machine and very efficient.

1 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, this does represent
2 a significant number of birds. Like I said, the Fish
3 and Wildlife Service is trying to reduce these numbers
4 to the extent possible, but there's also other partners
5 that are trying to do the same, non-governmental
6 organizations, but also the Association of Fish and
7 Wildlife a
8 Agencies striving to address some of these as well as
9 the states.

10
11 MR. ADAMS: In Alaska there's a lot of
12 power lines. I know in Barrow there's some reflectors
13 that are being used on the power lines. It helps a
14 little, but in the dark when they're flying, they still
15 hit the power lines, but those reflectors do help.

16
17 MR. MAYO: Yeah, these eight states
18 that filed the lawsuit against the administration so
19 that would eventually affect the solicitor's opinion or
20 just have to wait and see. These are the states of
21 Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon,
22 California, New York and New Mexico.

23
24 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, you're right.
25 There is a case brought against the Department of
26 Interior and there's also been a number of letters that
27 have been written to the Department of Interior
28 expressing concern. So there are some issues here that
29 will need to work their way out through the court
30 system.

31
32 Again, this is just the Department of
33 Interior Solicitor's Opinion, but ultimately it may be
34 the courts that resolve this issue.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Bruce.

37
38 MR. DALE: Randy brought up the point I
39 was going to make.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other comments or
42 questions for Todd at this point. I did want to
43 provide one clarification. The important point -- if
44 you could go back to your previous slide real quick.
45 It's important for projects like Pebble Mine for
46 example or any projects that go through what's called
47 the National Environmental Policy Act. The Solicitor's
48 Opinion applies to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in
49 terms of a project that goes through an environmental
50

1 review. For example through an environmental impact
2 statement or environmental assessment.

3
4 The law called the National
5 Environmental Policy Act that Todd has cited here does
6 require the permitting agency to consider incidental
7 take to migratory birds. So the agency is required to
8 assess potential impacts of the project to migratory
9 birds. For example, for the Pebble Mine Project, as
10 that moves through the environmental review process,
11 part of that process requires the permitting agency, in
12 this case the Corps of Engineers, to look at proposed
13 impacts to migratory birds. So I just wanted to make
14 that point.

15
16 However, an example where the National
17 Environmental Policy Act would not be appropriate would
18 be, for example, let's just say the owner of this
19 property out the window here decides that a power line
20 is needed to go through there. In that case, formally
21 the power line company would check with the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service for ways to reduce potential impacts
23 of nesting birds.

24
25 Let's just say it was proposed during
26 the nesting period May, June, possibly July. Now with
27 the reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
28 clearing could occur at any time. Again, best
29 management practices could be into play, but from the
30 reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that
31 clearing could occur without any review by the Service.
32 So I hope that helps.

33
34 Gayla.

35
36 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Thank you for bringing that up for the NEPA process
38 especially since in my region we're going through that
39 process right now with the Pebble Mine. I know that in
40 the Y-K Delta region they just went through the EIS
41 process for Donlin Gold. Especially where the
42 migratory birds are nesting on the Y-K Delta region,
43 did then the Service provide the information for the
44 EIS and how the migratory birds would be affected for
45 Donlin?

46
47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, we did. The
48 review of projects like Donlin or Pebble Mine are
49 conducted by our office called the Ecological Services
50

1 Office and there's an officer here in Anchorage as well
2 as Fairbanks. Ecological Services biologists are
3 experts in regulations and then those biologists then
4 cooperate with offices like the Marine Mammals
5 Management Office or, in my case, the Migratory Bird
6 Management Office, to ask us to review potential
7 impacts of that project.

8
9 Yes, we did provide comments relative
10 to Donlin Mine. So that letter goes in under another
11 office, Assistant Regional Director, but the comments
12 that that letter contains are Migratory Bird comments.

13
14 MS. HOSETH: And then we were talking
15 about this earlier. With that, once that EIS comes out,
16 is there -- you know, when it goes up for public
17 comment, is there any way that this management body of
18 the AMBCC can weigh in on those comments for the EIS
19 for migratory birds?

20
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, certainly the
22 AMBCC can. There's a little bit of awkwardness in the
23 sense that -- because the AMBCC is comprised of three
24 partners, the Native Caucus, the Department of Fish and
25 Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service, there's a
26 little bit of awkwardness in the sense that we have --
27 we will provide comments on the EIS as an agency as the
28 Fish and Wildlife Service.

29
30 So if, indeed, the AMBCC wanted to
31 submit a letter, we would have to discuss how the
32 Service would be part of or perhaps remove ourselves as
33 a signatory. The signatory could be possibly Patty for
34 example or the Native Caucus. The best way is try to
35 avoid comments coming in from the agency as its own
36 concerns and then also being associated with another
37 group.

38
39 This is certainly a management body and
40 it's composed of three entities and I would encourage
41 certainly consideration of potential impacts to
42 migratory birds to any project.

43
44 Bruce, I don't know if you'd like to
45 provide any comments and clarity to that or not.

46
47 MR. DALE: Yeah, I agree. In the past
48 we've sort of pulled back and let the Native Caucus
49 submit comments separately. We're certainly willing to
50

1 submit them from the Council. It's just that we'll
2 have to go back and get the comments approved at the
3 State level and Federal level before we can vote to put
4 them forward. We can always do that and if we can't
5 get that or there's problems, we could fall back to
6 just a Native Caucus letter.

7
8 The same thing applies for any other
9 NEPA process or project. Pebble's ongoing. They're
10 developing an impact statement for ANWR. There's high
11 migratory bird value in the western portion of the 10-
12 02 area. Things like that that this body can weigh in
13 on.

14
15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Gloria.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question about
18 the Solicitor's Opinion. Is this NEPA going to be done
19 in the future for known nesting areas or bird habitat
20 or is that just all over Alaska where any projects are
21 done?

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: The Solicitor's
24 Opinion applies overall to the United States, so it's
25 the Department of Interior Solicitor's Opinion that is
26 currently in place. As Todd mentioned, it's reversed
27 50 years of interpretation by a previous solicitor.
28 Right now, as of December 22nd, 2017, there's a new
29 opinion that applies to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
30 It applies to all the United States.

31
32 Any project that goes through the
33 National Environmental Policy Act, let's just say it's
34 a new dam on a river in Missouri or let's say it's a
35 new gold mine in Montana, any project that goes through
36 what's called the National Environmental Policy Act
37 will would consider impacts to migratory birds.
38 However, any sort of project that is done by industry
39 that does not hit that trigger of an environmental
40 assessment or environmental impact statement, such as
41 clearing for a road or clearing for a power line
42 corridor, expansion of an existing road system for
43 example, if that project or projects do not require
44 that National Environmental Policy Act review, then
45 those can proceed without any sort of review by the
46 Fish and Wildlife Service.

47
48 Does that help?

1 MS. STICKWAN: (Nods affirmatively).

2
3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Randy.

4
5 MR. MAYO: Yeah, you know, once again
6 I'm going to kind of speak to the reality of the higher
7 political reality. I know that for yourself and Bruce
8 the difficulty of representing the State and Federal
9 governments it's going to be guided by whoever becomes
10 the new governor and after the elections where you guys
11 will get your marching orders and directions when it
12 comes to these initiatives and whatnot. So that
13 political reality just guides everything. So I just
14 wanted to make mention of that.

15
16 Overall just speaking to some of these
17 protection laws that also include us like some -- you
18 know, in our area working with some other regulatory
19 agencies and what we've seen is the rollback and
20 gutting of even the current law that gives people a
21 voice and to kind of guide some of these activities
22 that -- you know, what we've seen is under this Trump
23 Administration, rollback and gutting of the people
24 process and people streamlining of our regional plans
25 and initiatives. It's pretty one-sided. It's just a
26 giveaway to big industry over us people living out
27 there.

28
29 Some of the bad example nationally. I
30 don't know if you guys had been following that issue
31 down in North Dakota with the Standing Rock Sioux
32 Tribe, the Dakota Access Pipeline. That was a direct
33 result of taking out people's participation and voices
34 when they plowed that pipeline right through some
35 ceremonial and sacred grounds there against the
36 objection of the tribal people there. So it really
37 concerns me when these things come up.

38
39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy.
40 Your point is well taken. There is substantive
41 streamlining to the environmental review process.
42 Things like the Pebble Mine are now going through a
43 much faster review process where the goal in this case
44 is to try to issue a permit within a year where
45 formally that review process would have taken a
46 substantive greater amount of period of time and
47 perhaps allowed greater public involvement.

48
49 I do want to stress the point that
50

1 Gayla made that if this body feels that impacts to
2 migratory birds are substantive, I can't overemphasize
3 the importance of taking the time and putting together
4 review comments to make sure that your views are
5 understood by the permitting agencies.

6
7 Any other questions or comments.
8 Peter.

9
10 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As
11 you all know, we have a big project in our region that
12 King Cove Corporation has been fighting for years.
13 That little corridor through the Izembek Refuge. After
14 30 years of fighting they finally got the blessing from
15 the government to go ahead and do it. Now the
16 government is being sued by the environmentalists for
17 allowing it to happen. The 30 years that they've been
18 fighting for this road they've lost 20, 25 lives.

19
20 The precedent has already been set. I
21 mean they've already put roads through refuges,
22 speaking of Potter Marsh here. If they cut off that
23 end, put up a block and said you can't go through
24 there, this is already a refuge, but they've already
25 put the road in, but they allowed it to happen. And
26 now, in a different part of the state, they're not
27 allowing it to happen, which is wrong. It's costing
28 people's lives.

29
30 I just wanted to point that out that
31 they finally were allowed to do it and now it's on hold
32 again. For how many years we don't know.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Peter.
37 Additional comments. I'm looking at my clock because
38 I've been informed we're having a fire drill here at
39 12:15. To avoid the panic, I'm going to try to call
40 lunch and everybody can have a peaceful exodus.

41
42 Gloria.

43
44 MS. STICKWAN: Is there a deadline for
45 comments?

46
47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: For what?

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: You said AMBCC could
50

1 submit comments. Is there a cutoff date for comments?

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: In terms of, for
4 example, Pebble Mine?

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: I thought you said AMBCC
7 could submit comments on the Solicitor's Opinion. Is
8 there a deadline to submit comments?

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's a good
11 question. You know, I think at this point the opinion
12 is in place. The Solicitor made the opinion and
13 currently the Fish and Wildlife Service is following
14 the Department of Interior's guidance.

15

16 In terms of submitting comments to the
17 Department of Interior, the AMBCC can certainly do
18 that. I can tell you that I would have to remove
19 myself as an agency -- as a bureau under the Department
20 of Interior I would have to remove myself from review.
21 Certainly, in terms of the Native Caucus, it has the
22 right to submit comments to the Department of Interior
23 relative to the Solicitor's Opinion.

24

25 Gloria. Sorry. Gayla.

26

27 MS. HOSETH: That's okay. To follow up
28 and answer your question, Gloria, once we're in the
29 NEPA process, once an environmental impact statement is
30 finalized it goes out for a public review. So that's
31 also referenced as EIS. So once that final EIS comes
32 out any individual can comment on the EIS. So there is
33 a public process for the EIS.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other questions or
36 comments.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Hearing
41 none. Our next agenda item I know will take some time.
42 Julian Fischer will give us an update on distribution,
43 abundance and trends of migratory birds. It is just a
44 little past 10 to 12:00. Let's take a lunch. Can we
45 make it back by 1:00 instead of an hour and a half.
46 That way we can sort of push through. Let's reconvene
47 at 1:00 p.m.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Can I ask all AMBCC
6 Council members to take their seat, please. It's 1:00
7 o'clock. We're going to try to get started in just a
8 minute.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good afternoon and
13 welcome back. In the interest of time I would like to
14 get underway. Julian Fischer from the Migratory Bird
15 Management Office, the Waterfowl Section, will give us
16 an update on status and trends of migratory birds of
17 interest to all of you. Julian's got about, I don't
18 know, 16 years experience with the Waterfowl Program.
19 He's very familiar with all these surveys as well as
20 has worked on many of these species.

21

22 In the interest of time -- I know
23 there's a lot of questions on this presentation -- I
24 would like Council members to jot your question down
25 and then we will hold questions off until the end of
26 Julian's presentation. Jason has kindly offered to
27 advance the slides. If there's a particular species or
28 graph that you would like to go back to, it won't be
29 any issue at all to flip back to a graph to address
30 your question. Again, in the interest of time, please
31 write your question down and then at the end of the
32 presentation we'll address all of them.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 Julian, the floor is yours.

37

38 MR. FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
39 name is Julian Fischer. Thanks for the opportunity to
40 present updates on the migratory bird populations, many
41 of which are important to subsistence hunters in
42 Alaska. As Eric mentioned, I work for the U.S. Fish
43 and Wildlife Service. I'm in the Migratory Bird
44 Program. I work for Eric directly and I have
45 responsibilities for supervising the Waterfowl Survey
46 Program.

47

48 Our program is designed to monitor the
49 population trends and abundance of migratory waterfowl

50

1 within the state of Alaska. The purpose of doing these
2 surveys and monitoring activities is to provide
3 information to you and to others with interest in
4 migratory birds and those with responsibility for
5 managing the population and harvest like yourselves.
6

7 Next slide, please. So in this
8 presentation I'm going to briefly describe our program
9 and then I'll provide the updates on abundance and
10 trend and then after that I will be happy to answer any
11 questions and have discussions about some of the
12 observations that you described yesterday or other
13 things that come to mind as we go along here. Our
14 program definitely benefits from your observations and
15 it helps direct our activities about where we should be
16 looking, how we should be looking and what we're likely
17 missing.
18

19 Next slide. So this is the crew that I
20 work with. These are a number of waterfowl biologists
21 and also quantitative ecologists, statisticians. So we
22 have two wildlife biologist pilots that are responsible
23 for flying aircraft. We have several trained aerial
24 observers. We have folks with expertise in survey
25 design, data analysis, data management and mapping out
26 the distributions of birds. It's a great group to work
27 with. Everyone is very passionate about what they do
28 and extremely knowledgeable in their fields. I'm lucky
29 to work with people that love to do what they do.
30

31 Next slide. So our Waterfowl Survey
32 Program is primarily an aerial survey program. We use
33 three aircraft around the state of Alaska to count
34 numbers of birds in principal breeding areas and in
35 some cases in important staging areas. In at least one
36 case wintering areas. These aircraft are all Cessna
37 206 on amphibious floats. These allow us to land both
38 on water or on runways or gravel strips.
39

40 They're older aircraft built in the
41 1980s. They're G model 206's which means they're a
42 little bit lighter, less expensive to operate and
43 replace parts, which is important for our program, but
44 it also allows us to carry a fair amount of fuel, which
45 limits the number of times we need to stop and refuel
46 during surveys. These also allow us to fly low and
47 slow, which is important for aerial surveys.
48

49 Next slide, please. In general here
50

1 our approach is to set up predefined transect lines
2 that we follow. That's followed closely with GPS
3 coordinates. We use laptop computers or TouchPads that
4 are linked to a GPS receiver and they're also linked to
5 a microphone.

6
7 So in that bottom left photograph you
8 see the laptop computer with a yellow GPS unit and in
9 the upper left is a microphone. So each observer is
10 looking out of the aircraft to a predetermined distance
11 of 200 meters generally on most types of surveys and
12 they're recording all the observations of birds that
13 they see within that transect with.

14
15 I was inspired by Liliana's
16 presentation yesterday and, no, I do not have a sing-
17 along, but I liked her use of sound. So I just want to
18 play this briefly so you kind of get a feel for what
19 we're doing. This is one of the observers.

20
21 (Playing audio)

22
23 MR. FISCHER: I just played that to
24 kind of give you a little taste of what it might be
25 like to sit in that plane. Imagine doing that day
26 after day, hour after hour and actually really require
27 someone to love birds, to see them on the ground flying
28 up and around you to stay totally engaged in that
29 process.

30
31 With each of those voice recordings
32 that that observer was making, as he keys that
33 microphone it grabs the coordinates for that
34 observation and it sends it to the computer. So we
35 have then a record of what was seen and precisely where
36 on that transect line. Each of these observers is
37 trained in flock estimations, species identification
38 and distance estimation using an aerial guide that you
39 see in the lower right and also there's an online tool
40 that basically trains observers to detect and identify
41 species from the air.

42
43 After surveys are done -- next slide,
44 please -- they take that information and then
45 transcribe it into a data file. The data are then
46 passed to our statisticians who then run the data
47 through a program that generates population estimates.

48
49 Next slide. So this is obviously the
50

1 state of Alaska and the area that we work. What you'll
2 see here is three different colored sets of polygons.
3 On the North Slope you see a purple shaded area and
4 there's some horizontal lines. Those are transect
5 lines that are flown each year. That's one of the main
6 breeding pair surveys that we do. It's called the
7 Arctic Coastal Plain Survey.

8
9 In the center and western part of the
10 state those teal polygons, those are major production
11 areas for waterfowl. Each of those are sampled along
12 the transect lines that you see displayed there.
13 That's part of a different breeding pair survey. It's
14 called the North American Waterfowl Breeding Population
15 and Habitat Survey.

16
17 In fact, this is the portion that our
18 office is responsible for, but this particular survey
19 actually extends across North America all the way to
20 the East Coast, through Canada and into the northern
21 part of the United States prairie region. It's
22 conducted by the Migratory Bird Program in the
23 headquarters region. So there's a number of aircraft
24 that are involved in this. We fly the Alaska portion.
25 So that's the North American Breeding Pair Survey.

26
27 In the very western portion of the
28 Yukon Delta there's kind of a gray area that's called
29 the Coastal Zone of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Breeding
30 Pair Survey and that area is flown with greater
31 intensity primarily because the goose and eider
32 populations are very dense in there. It was a survey
33 that was established in the mid 1980s specifically to
34 answer the call for conservation of geese resulting in
35 overharvest and as guided by the Yukon Delta Goose
36 Management Plan and later Pacific Flyway Management
37 Plans.

38
39 Most of the data I'm going to bring up
40 today is coming from these three surveys that are all
41 done in May and early June. I'm going to start off on
42 the Yukon Delta. Many of you know that Yukon Delta is
43 extremely important for North American geese. These
44 five geese here, very large proportions of their entire
45 populations occur on the Yukon Delta.

46
47 All the Cackling Canada Geese breed on
48 the Yukon Delta Coastal Zone. About half of the
49 Taverner's Canada Geese occur on the Yukon Delta.

50

1 Approximately 80 percent of all breeding Emperor Geese
2 breed on the Yukon Delta as far as we know. Somewhere
3 around 70 percent of Black Brant. Nearly all of the
4 Pacific population of White-fronted Geese. So it's an
5 extremely important breeding area in the state of
6 Alaska and the world really for these species.

7
8 Next slide. So I'm going to kick off
9 with the Cackling Canada Geese here. So Cacklers breed
10 along the coast of the Yukon Delta and then in fall
11 they stage along the Alaska Peninsula and then slowly
12 make their way south. Ultimately wintering in
13 Washington and principally in Oregon in the Willamette
14 Valley area and then reverse that direction in the
15 spring of course.

16
17 Next slide I'm going to show the
18 population trend estimation that comes from the surveys
19 that we've done since the mid 1980s when the survey was
20 first established. What you're looking at here is
21 along the bottom axis is year. So on the very left
22 would be the mid 1980s up until the current date.
23 Along the vertical axis is the population size.

24
25 What you see there is that jagged black
26 line rising relatively steeply over the first 12 years
27 or so of that survey. The numbers of Cacklers were very
28 low in the 1980s and the call for the need for
29 conservation was heard loud and clear by the residents
30 of the Yukon Delta who had noticed that populations had
31 declined precipitously over the previous decades.

32
33 So working with the Fish and Wildlife
34 Service and the Department of Fish and Game and states
35 in the Lower 48, the Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan
36 was born and agreements between the sport harvesters
37 from the south and subsistence harvesters in the north
38 were signed into an agreement to allow this population
39 to grow until sufficient numbers were showing up again
40 on the breeding grounds that would allow for an open
41 harvest. It was extremely successful and you see those
42 numbers climbing.

43
44 What was important about that agreement
45 was that there was an objective that was discussed and
46 negotiated and then agreed upon and then a plan was set
47 into motion to achieve that objective. There was
48 thresholds that would indicate when it would be okay to
49 start gradually opening up harvest and when you would

50

1 then close harvest again if it dropped down.

2

3 So when you have a plan in place, then
4 everyone kind of knows what to expect. You adapt as
5 you need, but rather than waiting for catastrophe to
6 strike and everyone kind of running around not knowing
7 what to do, everyone knows what the plan is and buys
8 into it and has input into it.

9

10 In the case of Cacklers, the population
11 was achieved, the harvest was reopened and as you can
12 see the numbers fluctuate quite a bit around that
13 population objective, but that's to be expected when
14 you have a species that's open for harvest, but these
15 plans allow for increase or decrease of sport harvest
16 and certainly on the Yukon Delta. The harvest is a
17 traditional harvest and eggging is allowed and Cacklers
18 are currently quite healthy as you can see.

19

20 Next slide, please. Okay. I'm going
21 to just touch briefly on Taverner's Canada Geese.
22 These are the coastal-oriented Canada Geese.
23 Subspecies of Canada Goose. Their breeding range is
24 just inland and north of the Cacklers on the Yukon
25 Delta, but they also breed all on the western and
26 northern fringe of Alaska.

27

28 There are some Taverner's that do breed
29 further inland. They cannot be distinguished from
30 Lesser Canada Geese by aerial observers, so I have not
31 included those in the population trends, so I don't
32 want you to get too focused on the numbers but rather
33 focus on the trend in the numbers.

34

35 Next slide, please. So you're looking
36 at the numbers of Taverner's Canada Geese in Alaska as
37 measured by the areas where we count them starting from
38 the mid 1980s through present. As you can see, the
39 numbers are -- they're not particularly stable. These
40 are year to year estimates. There's a very slight
41 indication that the population is lower now than it was
42 in the mid 1980s but there's been no significant change
43 in the last 10 years.

44

45 You'll notice there's not a population
46 objective, there's no closure threshold because there
47 never was one established in the management plan for
48 Taverner's. I believe there is some movement to
49 develop a management plan for Taverner's in the Pacific

50

1 Flyway. It's not really gotten off the ground too far.
2 Jason might be able to address that when he does his
3 talk if the question comes up. I think there's a
4 schedule for it and we would certainly be interested in
5 having input from those of you who harvest this bird
6 and have interest in helping establish that objective.
7

8 Next slide. Okay. Next is the Pacific
9 population of Greater White-fronted Geese. So this map
10 here shows in blue along the northern portion in the
11 Arctic and the subarctic. That's the entire breeding
12 range of Greater White-fronted Geese. The Greater
13 White-fronted Goose has two main populations. One goes
14 down the Pacific Flyway. The other is called the
15 Mid-Continent population that migrate down the Central
16 and Mississippi Flyways.
17

18 What I'm talking about here is the
19 Pacific population. They breed on the Yukon Delta
20 almost exclusively, but there is a population of
21 Pacifics that also breeds in the Bristol Bay region,
22 but a relatively smaller portion. They migrate down
23 and winter in California and in portions of Mexico.
24

25 Next slide. A similar story as with
26 the Cacklers. Pacific White-fronted Geese and Cacklers
27 were the driving force behind the Goose Management Plan
28 in the '80s and were really the focus of that plan
29 early on. So harvest was closed in the early '8s and
30 the population responded rapidly and dramatically
31 really. Harvest was reopened a few years after it had
32 been closed due to some agricultural changes in the
33 wintering areas that were really beneficial to Pacific
34 White-fronted Geese that continued to climb.
35

36 Over the last 10 years or so it looks
37 like they're starting to taper off, but the current
38 index is well over the population objective. So
39 they're a plentiful goose species breeding in western
40 Alaska today.
41

42 Next. Okay. Emperor Geese. We love
43 Emperor Geese. I want to just look at this map a
44 little bit and just go over a little bit about the life
45 history and movements before we talk about numbers. So
46 starting in winter Emperor Geese are distributed all
47 throughout the Aleutians and Kodiak Island and some
48 winter out on the Commander Islands, which is the very
49 most western extension of the Aleutians, but actually
50

1 in Russia. So that whole blue area is where you'd see
2 Emperor Geese in winter.

3
4 Starting in spring, as Coral mentioned,
5 they'd be departing Kodiak in April and they'd also be
6 moving eastward from the Aleutians into the Bristol Bay
7 Region along the northern coast of the Alaska Peninsula
8 where they stage for several weeks and they fatten up.
9 Starting in early May they make their move north to the
10 Yukon Delta where most Emperor Geese breed. That's
11 that area I have a red box surrounding that.

12
13 We know that there is some breeding
14 that occurs in some other locations as well. Some
15 along the northern portion of the Seward Peninsula.
16 There's some breeding that has been reported in the
17 Arctic Coast of Russia in small pockets. In fact,
18 earlier this week Dr. Evgeny Syroechkovskiy was here
19 attending a meeting actually out in Unalaska but
20 stopped here in Anchorage. We talked briefly and he
21 showed me some photographs of Emperor Goose nests in
22 Russia. They have very little monitoring that they do
23 over there, but there have been some reports of Emperor
24 Geese breeding along the northern coast.

25
26 Northern Russia is a really important
27 place for Emperor Geese in the molt period. So when
28 Emperor Geese that fail to breed on the Yukon Delta
29 they either lose their nest to fox predation or they
30 just simply don't have enough food reserves to pull off
31 nesting that particular year. A large portion of them
32 take off, they fly across the Bering Sea.

33
34 As Eddie described yesterday large
35 numbers can be seen flying over St. Lawrence Island and
36 continuing to the northwest where in Kolyuchin Bay,
37 which is one of the bays in the northern Chukotka
38 Peninsula area, it provides a really important feeding
39 area for Emperor Geese and they stay there for a long
40 period of the summer before returning back down over
41 the Bering Sea again passing along the western coast of
42 Alaska and making their way down to the Alaska
43 Peninsula and then the cycle continues spreading out
44 through the Aleutian Islands and Kodiak again.

45
46 So we're aware of the migration over
47 St. Lawrence Island and it was a breeding area for
48 Emperor Geese. There may be some. I was talking to
49 Eddie yesterday. He said he didn't think there was

50

1 much of any right now, but I wouldn't be surprised if
2 there's some Emperor Geese breeding there.

3
4 MR. FAGERSTROM: There have been
5 reports from Savoonga also. They noticed breeding
6 going on there. And also by Shishmaref.

7
8 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. I should
9 point out that the interest in the breeding area to the
10 north was a challenge that the Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game took on this year and they initiated an
12 exploratory breeding pair survey on the Seward
13 Peninsula to document population size of breeding
14 Emperor Geese. As I understand, the numbers are not yet
15 available for reporting, but there were certainly some
16 birds seen up there.

17
18 Next slide, please. I think just about
19 everyone here was involved in the AMBCC during the
20 development of these two documents in 2016. The
21 Pacific Flyway Council Emperor Goose Plan and then one
22 that was specifically geared towards the spring/summer
23 hunt through the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
24 Council. These are two different documents, but they
25 rely on the same monitoring strategy and the same
26 decision points.

27
28 So one of the big things that occurred
29 during the development of these plans was a thorough
30 review of all the survey data that was being used to
31 manage the population of Emperor Geese. You'll recall
32 that under the Yukon Delta Goose Management Plan it
33 called for use of data from an aerial survey of the
34 Alaska Peninsula in spring. So that's what we did for
35 many years.

36
37 There were concerns about that approach
38 that were brought up by members of the AMBCC within the
39 Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish
40 and Game, so the Migratory Bird Program invested a
41 significant amount of money in contracting an
42 independent review of all the available data, which
43 took about two years to do the analysis and it was a
44 report that was provided to the Migratory Bird Co-
45 Management Council a couple years ago by Josh Dooley.

46
47 So what Josh did was he looked at all
48 the breeding pair data, a survey that's done on the
49 Yukon Delta that looks at the number of nests. It

50

1 looked at a fall population survey and a spring survey.
2 Essentially found that all those indices were showing
3 the same trends at about the same growth rate. So from
4 that the Emperor Goose Subcommittee decided to focus on
5 using the breeding pair data as the primary way of
6 monitoring the population. The breeding pair data
7 coming from the Yukon Delta Coastal Zone Survey.

8
9 So that's what I'm about to show on the
10 next slide. These are the numbers that's in the same
11 format as the other goose species trends that you've
12 seen before, but this is for the breeding ground index
13 of Emperor Geese on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Luckily
14 we've been counting Emperor Geese since the mid 1980s
15 on that same survey along the Coastal Zone. If you
16 were to superimpose the spring count over this that had
17 been done previously, it would show about the same
18 growth rate, the trend from low numbers in the '80s to
19 higher numbers currently.

20
21 What we see here is the numbers that
22 we've been counting from that survey and the horizontal
23 lines show the thresholds that were agreed upon by the
24 Emperor Goose Subcommittee for when to close the
25 harvest, what the objective is overall long term and
26 when the point above which a traditional customary
27 harvest would be practiced.

28
29 That is that critical yellow line
30 there. So if the numbers are above 23,000 as measured
31 by this survey, then a customary and traditional
32 harvest will continue in summer and spring. Below that
33 line that's the point when the Council would come
34 together and start discussing ways to conserve the
35 birds. The management plans do not specify the ways
36 and means that that would happen. That would be
37 determined by region through discussion in the AMBCC.

38
39 A number of possibilities have been
40 described in the management plan, but nothing is like
41 cut in stone because every different region has
42 different ways that would be a culturally appropriate
43 way to encourage further conservation of the species.
44 So if the numbers from the survey drop below 28,000,
45 then we will be talking about how we're going to try to
46 get those numbers back up again.

47
48 So this was the second summer of the
49 legalized subsistence harvest. In 2018 the number was
50

1 30,000, which is above the 28,000 cut point at which we
2 would start talking about restricting harvest or doing
3 other things that would conserve Emperor Geese and get
4 them above that line. The 23,000 in that red line
5 that's when the harvest would be closed and we're above
6 that.

7
8 Next slide. Okay, just a couple points
9 to close off with Emperor Geese. Based on the current
10 population size, they're open to the customary and
11 traditional hunting through the AMBCC's subsistence
12 harvest season, the 2nd of April through August. There
13 is still the 30-days closure to protect nesting birds.
14 The specific dates that those 30 days of closure occur
15 depends on which region you're in.

16
17 We saw that in the 1980s to the present
18 that the growth rate of Emperor Geese is slow. If the
19 numbers were to make a dramatic dive, it might be a
20 long time before the population returns to the size
21 that it is currently. So that's something to always
22 keep in mind. We want to move slowly and cautiously.

23
24 The plan allows for implementation of
25 restrictions if needed. Those are to be determined
26 through the AMBCC. Of course hunting conservatively
27 today will help keep this population above that line
28 and provide the opportunity for people to continue
29 harvesting using traditional methods.

30
31 Next slide. I'm going to move to
32 another coastal marine goose, the Pacific Brant. The
33 Pacific population of Brant breeds throughout subarctic
34 and Arctic areas in Alaska and Canada and Russia. The
35 primary breeding area we believe is still on the Yukon-
36 Kuskokwim Delta although that might be changing.
37 What's interesting about this population is pretty much
38 the entire lot of birds comes together in the Izembek
39 Lagoon region in the fall. That's highlighted there in
40 the red box.

41
42 So approximately the end of September
43 through early November depending on weather all those
44 birds come together in that lagoon area and it's a
45 sight to behold. They spread down the coast of
46 California, Oregon, Washington, down into Mexico in
47 winter. An increasing proportion of them are staying
48 over in the Izembek area overwinter as well now. Of
49 course in spring they come back up through the Alaska

50

1 Peninsula and spread back out into the arctic areas to
2 breed.

3
4 Next slide. So unlike the other
5 species I've mentioned so far, Pacific Brant are not
6 managed using a breeding pair survey. They're managed
7 using a winter survey. This winter survey is conducted
8 throughout their wintering range. Mexico, Oregon,
9 California, Washington and Alaska are all participants
10 in monitoring this population in winter.

11
12 Within Alaska most of the birds that do
13 remain overwinter are in the Izembek Lagoon region and
14 in nearby islands. Our office is responsible for
15 surveying the birds that remain there. State agencies
16 and the Province of British Columbia do the counts in
17 their regions and non-governmental organization in
18 Mexico does their counts in the Baja area.

19
20 Next slide. These are the estimates
21 that come from those survey efforts and this approach
22 was adopted in the Goose Management Plan in the 1980s
23 but this time series actually extends back to 1960. As
24 you can see the numbers of Brant have been pretty
25 stable over a very long time period. Within 100,000
26 and 150,000 approximately over that time period.
27 Currently we're kind of in the middle of that range
28 average.

29
30 Those horizontal lines indicate the
31 population objective and also a closure threshold as
32 well as different thresholds for different hunting
33 that's allowed during the winter period in the Lower 48
34 states. So there's a restrictive, moderate and liberal
35 bag limit depending on where the population resides.

36
37 I'm going to move to the Interior and
38 northern part of the state now with the Mid-Continent
39 population of Greater White-fronted Geese. They breed
40 in Interior Alaska and on the Arctic Coastal Plain.
41 Our office is monitoring them through our Arctic
42 surveys and Interior Alaska surveys.

43
44 Next slide, please. This map shows the
45 area from where we're deriving this index to the
46 Greater White-fronted population in Interior Alaska.
47 The thing I hope you notice immediately is how variable
48 these numbers are. The survey is designed specifically
49 for ducks, but the crews count geese as well in those

50

1 areas.

2

3 Mid-Continent Greater White-fronted
4 Geese migrate up through the center of the state,
5 through the Interior and some stay and breed and some
6 continue on to breed on the Arctic Coastal Plain. So a
7 lot of variability you're seeing in those numbers are
8 probably a reflection of when huge flocks were passing
9 through the Interior that were not necessarily going to
10 remain to breed.

11

12 The reason I'm showing this is simply
13 to emphasize that during the spring period there are
14 birds available in the Interior region and it might
15 differ from year to year depending on timing of
16 migration.

17

18 Next slide. On the Arctic Coastal
19 Plain this is a little more stable situation where this
20 is the terminus of their migration and they're not
21 going any further. They're going to breed or remain
22 there for the summer. The numbers that we've counted
23 over the years jive pretty closely from what we're
24 hearing from North Slope residents that have described
25 an increase in White-fronted Goose populations in that
26 region.

27

28 Things were pretty stable for quite a
29 while and made a rapid jump in the mid 2000s. It's
30 been fairly variable since then. The last couple years
31 have trailed off a little bit, but large growth in the
32 population of Mid-Continent Greater White-fronted
33 Geese. Somewhere in the estimate of about 260,000
34 birds up there in the summer. That's about a third of
35 all the Mid-Continent Geese. The others are breeding
36 in Canada.

37

38 Next slide. Okay. There is a
39 population objective for Mid-Continent White-fronts as
40 a whole, not an Alaska specific objective. That North
41 American objective is 600,000 birds and that is
42 measured by a survey that the Canadian Wildlife Service
43 does in the prairies during September and early
44 October. Their most recent estimates were around
45 900,000 birds, so the species is above its population
46 objective.

47

48 We also use harvest rate. As long as
49 we can keep their rate of harvest below 6 percent then

50

1 the population will likely continue to be stable. So
2 the harvest rate is below 6 percent and the population
3 is above 600,000, so Mid-Continent Greater
4 White-fronted Geese appear to be very healthy.

5
6 Next slide. Lesser Canada Geese.
7 These are the Canada Geese that you'll find in
8 Southcentral and Interior Alaska. On this map you'll
9 see the Koyukuk and Innoko regions are in brown. Those
10 are not included in our index of Lesser Canada Geese
11 because we know they mix with Taverner's in that area.
12 So any numbers that I would show you from those regions
13 would be a mixture of Lessers and Taverner's. So we
14 just exclude those and instead focus on the areas in
15 teal as our measure of what's going on with the Lesser
16 Canada Goose population.

17
18 Next slide. This is what's going on
19 with the Lessers. Numbers are highly variable from
20 year to year. It's possible that some of these birds
21 when we count them are still en route to their breeding
22 grounds. In general, the numbers are relatively
23 stable. There's no significant change there.

24
25 It looks like there was a period in the
26 '70s and early '80s where the numbers might have been a
27 bit higher. We don't honestly have a good fix on
28 what's going on with Lesser Canada Geese with much
29 precision. There's not a population objective set in
30 the Pacific Flyway for Lesser Canada Geese at this
31 time.

32
33 Next slide. Okay. Lesser Snow Geese.
34 We talked about these a little bit yesterday. I'm
35 always really interested to hear the regional reports
36 on what they're seeing for Lesser Snow Geese. The
37 population is growing and there's reason to be
38 concerned about Snow Geese if they get out of hand.
39 There's 20 million or so in Canada and they've done
40 serious damage to the habitats for shorebirds in some
41 of their staging areas. We're nowhere near that in
42 Alaska but there's always potential for growth of this
43 particular population. I'm almost happy to hear
44 reports of people harvesting these birds.

45
46 These are the principal breeding areas
47 in Alaska. The stars indicate known primary nesting
48 areas. These are colonies rather than spread out in
49 the landscape. The yellow highlighted portions of the
50

1 coast is where those birds from those colonies end up
2 raising their broods.

3
4 Let's go on. From the Arctic Coastal
5 Plain Breeding Pair Survey. These are the results
6 we're coming up with. You can see in the early '80s
7 there were very few that we detected during our
8 surveys. Starting around 2000 they started showing up
9 as a commonly observed species and then suddenly late
10 in the 2000s the numbers kind of jumped up rapidly.

11
12 I think you can probably see the
13 screen. The shaded area behind that black line and
14 that indicates the confidence that we have behind those
15 annual estimates. When you look at that line and say
16 how many birds are there, we don't know with great
17 precision exactly how many there are, but we know that
18 it's somewhere within that shaded area.

19
20 The reason why it's so imprecise is
21 because these birds nest in colonies. When the
22 aircraft is flying over tundra on a straight line
23 transect and then it suddenly encounters a whole lot of
24 these birds in a colony and then counts a whole bunch
25 and then the plane continues on and there's no more
26 Snow Geese, what that results in is an estimate, but
27 it's very imprecise. It's hard to gauge exactly how
28 many birds are there when you extrapolate those numbers
29 out.

30
31 I'm mentioning that just so that when
32 you look at these numbers you shouldn't look at it and
33 say there's exactly 40,000 Snow Geese on the North
34 Slope. It's something more like somewhere as many as
35 80,000 potentially.

36
37 One interesting point on the Snow Geese
38 that I'll mention is there are lots of Snow Geese
39 breeding further to the east in Canada and there's a
40 lot of Snow Geese breeding further to the west in
41 Russia and Alaska is smack dab in the middle and we've
42 got some great habitat. So there's certainly potential
43 for more colonization of particularly the Arctic Slope
44 for Snow Geese. So we're keeping close tabs on them.
45 It's a species of great interest.

46
47 Okay. Swans. There's two main
48 populations of Tundra Swans that breed here. There's a
49 western population. These birds are basically from the
50

1 Brooks Range south along the coast breeding and they
2 migrate south to the western coastal states in the
3 Lower 48. The eastern population breeds on the Arctic
4 Coastal Plain, North Slope through Canada, and they
5 migrate down and winter in the mid-Atlantic states.
6 These are two different populations that go in two
7 different directions in the fall.

8
9 Next slide. The numbers that I'm
10 presenting here are an estimate of Tundra Swans in the
11 western population that are the combination of all
12 those birds that we count breeding in Bristol Bay,
13 Yukon Delta, Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue Sound region.
14 I want to emphasize this is not all the birds.

15
16 Our surveys don't sample all the places
17 where birds occur. We only are counting during the
18 breeding period. Migratory birds could be breeding in
19 lots of different places and then staging in the fall
20 in locations in greater numbers than are presented
21 here.
22 Currently the combined index of Tundra Swans in the
23 western population is around 130,000 birds.

24
25 Let's go on to the eastern population.
26 These are the birds that breed on the North Slope as
27 well as Canada. Over the long term they've been
28 increasing. They're a healthy population and we can
29 monitor them fairly precisely on the Arctic Coastal
30 Plain. So these numbers are just reflecting the
31 numbers of birds that are counted on our Arctic Coastal
32 Plain Breeding Pair Survey.

33
34 I'm going to touch very briefly on a
35 few ducks. Spectacled Eiders. I might just breeze
36 over this since Neesha covered them. You know about
37 the distribution, you know they breed in the Yukon
38 Delta Arctic Coastal Plain and in Russia and they all
39 come together in the Bering Sea in winter.

40
41 The Yukon Delta numbers have been
42 increasing at a very healthy clip from the mid '80s
43 through present. It's really encouraging. On the
44 North Slope numbers have been relatively flat. We
45 can't predict a trend up or down.

46
47 Also, as Neesha mentioned, Spectacled
48 Eiders are going to be undergoing a species status
49 assessment where all the data will be looked at and the
50

1 threshold for delisting will be revisited and we will
2 look at all the data to determine if they've met the
3 criteria to be removed from the Endangered Species
4 List. That should be happening very soon, within the
5 next couple years.
6

7 Let's move on. I didn't want to leave
8 some of the Dabbling Ducks out. I know that many
9 subsistence hunters hunt these Dabbling Ducks,
10 Pintails, Mallards, Wigeon, Teal. The table that's
11 presented here just shows some rough estimates within
12 the state of Alaska. They're about half a million,
13 650, 450, 650. There's a lot of these ducks that are
14 currently breeding in Alaska. The column on the right
15 that says NS, that just indicates that there's no
16 statistical difference between the long-term average.
17

18 So, in other words, the numbers that we
19 have now when you lump them all together over the state
20 of Alaska are about the same as have been seeing over
21 the long term since the 1950s. So there's certainly a
22 lot of fluctuation from year to year but on average we
23 have about as many now as we've had over the last 50
24 years.
25

26 I think that's all I've got right now.
27 There's many species that are not mentioned here that
28 people harvest. This doesn't go into sea ducks,
29 shorebirds, loons and I certainly didn't cover any
30 information about the populations in very localized
31 areas or in time periods that might be of particular
32 interest to you. If we have data on that, I'd love to
33 share it with you if we have it or if I can help you
34 track down information about those time periods.
35

36 We live in a huge state. We have many
37 species that we try to monitor and we try to set up our
38 monitoring strategies to be really well designed for
39 those particular species that we're trying to monitor.
40 That's a long-winded way of saying we can't and we
41 don't try to do everything. We try to do some key
42 things well. So that's what I presented and I'd be
43 open to any questions or observations or comments or
44 otherwise.
45

46 Thank you.
47

48 MR. ADAMS: Thank you for your
49 presentation. We're sitting here and we're in Alaska.
50

1 We share a lot of these birds with our neighbors down
2 south and Canada. Who is the middle man who speaks
3 with the sport hunters, Ducks Unlimited and things of
4 that nature? And who funds these surveys? That's a
5 couple questions that I had.

6
7 MR. FISCHER: I'll address the last one
8 first, who funds the surveys. The money for the
9 surveys comes from the Migratory Bird Program, the
10 surveys that I presented here today. The Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game also provided financial
12 support for some of these surveys.

13
14 Who is the middle man between the birds
15 here and in the Lower 48 states. So the Alaska
16 Migratory Bird Co-management Council is part of a
17 system of councils. There's a Pacific Flyway Council,
18 which is comprised of state representatives all in the
19 Pacific Flyway. So Alaska, Oregon, Washington,
20 California, Nevada, portions of Colorado. They get
21 together and discuss the status and trends of
22 populations just like this. They work on developing
23 the winter harvest strategies using that trend
24 information.

25
26 Now there's a representative from the
27 AMBCC that participates in that process as well to
28 provide their input about the importance of subsistence
29 harvest to hunters here. So it's state representatives
30 and also representation from the Fish and Wildlife
31 Service and AMBCC.

32
33 MR. ADAMS: My reasons for asking was
34 you know that sometimes when there's too big of a
35 population it needs to be managed and we see those
36 things happen. There would be some advocacy, you
37 know, that maybe funds can come in for groups like
38 this. Those are some big questions and, you know,
39 that could impact a lot of things, especially the
40 Natives here in Alaska.

41
42 Those are the difficult questions I
43 had. You know, I go back home and have to make a
44 report to a lot of hunters that have these questions
45 and a lot of us here are pressured to ask these
46 questions sometimes. We're just a small representative
47 amongst thousands of hunters in our home places.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. FAGERSTROM: I'm just going to talk
2 about swans for a moment. When we're flying from my
3 village to Nome, we'd see the head of the bay pretty
4 white. A tremendous amount of swans there. As we're
5 flying over the lakes, there's still swans with signets
6 that aren't even flying yet. I was wondering if they
7 may have had two broods that year. We noticed that
8 over the last 10 years or so. We'd be flying over and
9 there's five swans down there. Three of them are gray
10 and way smaller than the white ones.

11
12 MR. FISCHER: Yeah, those gray swans
13 would certainly be young of the year, so that would
14 indicate local breeding because when they hatch they're
15 flightless until they can get large enough to fly. If
16 you're seeing family groups like that, that definitely
17 would indicate that there's birds breeding there. If
18 you're seeing more of that over time, then the breeding
19 population must be growing.

20
21 MR. FAGERSTROM: My point was it's
22 September. Why aren't they flying yet.

23
24 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So swans are large
25 birds and it takes them a long time to get large enough
26 to fly. I know in the Interior parts of the state
27 Trumpeter Swans are often still in their breeding areas
28 well into September. Sometimes they don't even make it
29 out before their lakes start to freeze.

30
31 In the north, I understand you had a
32 pretty cold winter and late spring, is that right? Or
33 not so much in the Seward Peninsula area.

34
35 MR. FAGERSTROM: There was more snow,
36 more like a normal year finally.

37
38 MR. FISCHER: So if you're seeing more
39 signets and family groups later now than you have in
40 the past, that would indicate either that they started
41 breeding late -- well, it would be that they were
42 breeding late or that there were two batches of birds,
43 some that bred early and some that maybe failed and
44 then tried again. But not having done any work up
45 there with breeding Tundra Swans, you would know far
46 better than me about what's normal in terms of
47 departure of those swans.

48
49 So what you're saying to me is that
50

1 they're there much later than they used to be?

2

3 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yes. And also their
4 young aren't even flying yet on some of them. Every
5 other bird there the young is flying now, fully
6 fledged, but the swans still haven't gotten out.

7

8 MR. FISCHER: They better get a move
9 on.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi. I have a few
14 questions about the Emperor surveys. In the past I
15 think it was said that the surveys are done like around
16 the 24th of April. Was that when they were done this
17 past year?

18

19 MR. FISCHER: Like I mentioned, we've
20 discontinued the spring staging survey largely from the
21 request of the AMBCC and switched to a breeding pair
22 survey. So we didn't do that survey at all. We didn't
23 do it last year either.

24

25 MS. CHERNOFF: So when was your surveys
26 done this year?

27

28 MR. FISCHER: So the breeding survey
29 was done starting the last week of May and going into
30 the first few days of June exclusively on the breeding
31 grounds on the Yukon Delta.

32

33 Starting in 1981 there was an annual
34 survey done in spring in generally the last week of
35 April, sometimes bumping into the first couple days of
36 May. It was conducted from basically Izembek Lagoon
37 all the way up to -- yeah, somewhere in there where
38 Eric is pointing just past Dillingham in the primary
39 staging grounds for the Emperor Goose.

40

41 In 1985 another survey was initiated.
42 There was an annual survey on the Yukon Delta. It was
43 for geese, including Emperor Geese. The primary focus
44 at that time was really on Cacklers and White-fronts,
45 but all geese were recorded. I think, largely just
46 because of the longer dataset that spring survey was
47 used as the primary way of monitoring the population.

48

49 Like I said, in 2016, following a long

50

1 review process, the two surveys were essentially
2 showing the same population trend. The one on the
3 Yukon Delta was adopted. The one major benefit of that
4 versus the spring survey is that because it's a
5 transect-based survey it allows you to come up with not
6 just an estimate but a measure of variability around
7 that estimate. Whereas the spring survey was basically
8 a one-time count.

9
10 So the concern was that if you had
11 really bad weather or if there were some reason there
12 was a delay in the bird's migration you might miss a
13 whole bunch of birds.

14
15 The survey that I was referring to, the
16 Breeding Pair Survey, is along the western coastal
17 fringe of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, that area in gray.
18 Those are the primary breeding grounds.

19
20 Did I answer your question, Coral?

21
22 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. So when is that
23 done?

24
25 MR. FISCHER: The last week in May,
26 very beginning of June. So the timing varies depending
27 on the spring conditions. So what we've done -- timing
28 is really critical to these surveys. If you're too
29 early, you're going to miss the birds. If you're too
30 late you're going to miss the birds.

31
32 Over a number of years we've collected
33 information about when birds start to nest and when
34 they hatch. We've gotten enough data from that over a
35 20, 30-year period that we can now create mathematical
36 models based on weather conditions and the timing of
37 warmup to give us a really good estimate of when birds
38 will likely start to nest at least on the
39 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

40
41 So we time our surveys to basically be
42 within the first 10 days of nesting. So that way we
43 are really timing our surveys based on when the birds
44 are there rather than just a calendar date because
45 things can change. We have cold springs, we have warm
46 springs. We want to do the surveys when the birds are
47 there and breeding.

48
49 MS. CHERNOFF: How many days do you
50

1 survey or just however long it takes?
2

3 MR. FISCHER: The survey takes about a
4 week. That factors in a few days of weather, but it's
5 about five, six solid days of work.
6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: I have another question.
8 At our last meeting at home in Kodiak we asked a
9 question about if there was an estimate of the
10 percentage of the Emperors that overwinter in Kodiak.
11 Is there anybody that's looked at numbers like that?
12

13 MR. FISCHER: That's a great question.
14 I just presented basically breeding pair population
15 estimates. We have done surveys in Kodiak in the
16 winter. In fact, the last one we did was supported by
17 Fish and Game. It was only along the eastern and
18 southern coast of Kodiak. If memory serves, we had an
19 estimate of about 8,000 Emperor Geese during that time
20 period. It was in March, early March. That was in
21 2015.
22

23 MS. PLETNIKOFF: This is about
24 Spectacled Eiders in 2015. The survey was off. Was
25 that about timing or some other survey issue? Has that
26 been resolved and will it have any impact on delisting?
27 I guess it will be a future discussion, but delisting
28 number goals for closure warning and open.
29

30 MR. FISCHER: Okay. So with regards to
31 that 2015 number in the Yukon Delta that is definitely
32 an outlier. We have spent a lot of time pondering this
33 question. We think it's a combination of a brand-new
34 observer and timing. Whether that particular data
35 point will affect delisting, I suspect it will have
36 very little effect. The reason I believe that is
37 because we are working on developing detection
38 probabilities and we have ground-based work on the
39 Yukon Delta that allows us to compare the number of
40 pairs seen by aircraft versus numbers of nests found on
41 the ground.
42

43 In that particular year, 2015, there
44 was no noticeable decline in numbers of Spectacled
45 Eiders breeding that year. So you can adjust your
46 aerial estimates. We're in the process of working out
47 to the satisfaction of numerous statisticians the
48 process that we're using to do that and it's in review
49 right now. I think what it's going to end up resulting
50

1 in is a smoothing out of that outlier.

2

3 And then you asked about what are the
4 delisting criteria. For a warning objective or.....

5

6 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Closure and opening
7 numbers. Like even just rough estimates. If we
8 delist, is that immediately at the -- will we only
9 delist when we're at the number that's an open harvest?

10

11 MR. FISCHER: Will we open harvest when
12 the species is delisted?

13

14 MS. PLETNIKOFF: That would also work.

15

16 MR. FISCHER: I don't know. It
17 certainly should be open for discussion. Currently the
18 species is listed as threatened, so it's on the closed
19 list.

20

21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Other questions for
22 Julian. Todd, come on up.

23

24 MR. SFORMO: Just two quick questions.
25 More of clarification for the Emperor Goose one. If it
26 drops below 28,000, the estimate, that triggers
27 discussion for management, right? It doesn't
28 immediately stop harvest at that point. Is that
29 correct?

30

31 MR. FISCHER: According to the AMBCC
32 Emperor Goose Management Plan, that is correct. Just
33 prior to completion of that plan I remember an Emperor
34 Goose Subcommittee meeting in this building upstairs
35 where we started batting around ideas for what types of
36 restrictions would be effective locally. Really we
37 wanted the suggestions to come from the regional
38 representatives and their constituents.

39

40 MR. SFORMO: Okay.

41

42 MR. FISCHER: Some ideas were thrown
43 out there. I remember there would be consideration of
44 closure of eggging, increased outreach and education was
45 another. One was a potential consideration of harvest
46 only for elders. Those were a few ideas that I recall.
47 I believe some of the ideas were listed in the
48 management plan.

49

50

1 MR. SFORMO: Yeah, I just can't recall.
2 But there's no specific timeline either for initiating
3 those changes, is there?
4

5 MR. FISCHER: Discussions would start
6 immediately.
7

8 MR. SFORMO: Discussions. Okay. And
9 then I think it was the Cackling Canada Goose. You
10 mentioned with that fluctuation you said it fluctuates
11 widely especially when open to harvest. I was just
12 wondering is there any way of linking that up to the
13 statewide subsistence estimate where this year there's
14 a decrease by 20,000 birds for the subsistence. So the
15 only other harvest would be non-subsistence harvest.
16 Is that the reason for the decline, that there must be
17 an increase in sport hunting?
18

19 MR. FISCHER: While populations will
20 fluctuate for many reasons, there's lots of reasons why
21 a population like Cacklers could go up or down.
22 Cacklers, as you know they winter in Willamette Valley
23 and they depend on heavily managed crops. Grass
24 actually. If those conditions are poor, the birds are
25 going to suffer, but in general Cacklers are pretty
26 responsive to harvest.
27

28 The driving factor for their decline in
29 the '70s and early '80s was harvest in the Lower 48
30 states. When that harvest was closed, the population
31 responded extremely quickly. For this species anyway,
32 I believe the Lower 48 harvest is much higher than the
33 subsistence in Alaska.
34

35 MR. SFORMO: So there is a way of
36 possibly linking the estimates you have with kind of
37 the statewide estimates of harvest, right? The
38 decrease in the harvest of these geese isn't
39 responsible for that decline and it may be other places
40 that the harvest is affecting the numbers up here.
41

42 MR. FISCHER: My guess actually Todd
43 would be the decline in harvest in Alaska is because
44 there's fewer birds to harvest rather than the other
45 way around. That would be my guess.
46

47 MR. SFORMO: Okay. Thanks.
48

49 MR. FISCHER: So harvest is always
50

1 going to be one and in some cases very important
2 controlling factor for dynamics of the population.

3
4 MR. SFORMO: Good. Thanks.
5

6 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Julian, for
7 your presentation. With the Emperor Goose Management
8 Plan, is it after three years or five, I couldn't
9 remember, when we're going to be reviewing that back in
10 the AMBCC?

11
12 MR. FISCHER: I was thinking about that
13 this morning, the three versus five, and I think we
14 discussed both. Jason, help me out here. After three
15 we're going to start revising it, but I believe we were
16 going to stick with the plan for five years, but
17 starting in three -- Jason, help me out here because I
18 don't want to misspeak.

19
20 MR. SCHAMBER: In three we can review
21 the population status, the method for appraising
22 population status and the harvest strategy itself. The
23 decision could be that we maintain what we're doing for
24 the remainder of the five years.

25
26 MS. HOSETH: Thank you. And I just had
27 a question about the Brant on your slide. Are the
28 Brant wintering in Southeast or is that just the
29 Southeast was blackened with the islands around for the
30 winter?

31
32 MR. FISCHER: I don't think they're
33 wintering in Southeast Alaska, but they are in British
34 Columbia. That's just the coastline. No, I guess they
35 stage through there, but there's not a wintering --
36 Jason, this image is directly from the Pacific Flyway
37 Management Plan and those numbers are indicated. The
38 33 and 44, there's a corresponding table that shows the
39 importance of those areas to Brant. Southeast Alaska
40 is not an important breeding or wintering area for the
41 population that I'm aware of at all.

42
43 MR. SCHAMBER: Can you refresh our
44 memory on this, Dave?

45
46 MR. FISCHER: Dave Safine is going to
47 remind us. The question is what's the significance of
48 Southeast Alaska to Brant.

49
50

1 MR. SAFINE: Okay. My understanding is
2 this. Southeast Alaska would be primarily during
3 migration and it's not very heavily used. It would be
4 spring and fall primarily. I believe in particular the
5 western High Arctic birds pass through there on their
6 way up to the Canadian Arctic in the springtime and not
7 so much in the fall.

8
9 MR. FISCHER: Brant are known for their
10 very rapid fall migration south. A lot of those birds
11 that are staging on the Alaska Peninsula will make a
12 single flight continuous down to their wintering areas.
13 So that area in Southeast Alaska is probably more of a
14 brief stopover period in spring.

15
16 MR. FAGERSTROM: How are the health of
17 the staging areas? You realize a lot more birds are
18 overwintering in Cold Bay. In springtime, I'm from
19 Golovin, and the Brant go through there. They rest for
20 four or five days and they take off and go north. Chris
21 Dau, I had asked him some questions in 2009 and he
22 showed some transmitters of the Canadian High Arctic do
23 go through our area also and they're a different bird.
24 A little smaller and browner, maybe more gray.

25
26 I also have to bring out that there are
27 more swans there now too and they compete. No way
28 you're going to fight something that's 10 times bigger
29 than you are. Realizing the ocean acidification and
30 everything, I just worry about the staging areas and
31 how much food they have for the birds going through.

32
33 MR. FISCHER: Jack, that's an excellent
34 question. I don't have any information to provide to
35 you about the health of the eel grass beds in that
36 region at this point. I can track that down for you
37 though. I don't think there's much active work going
38 on with the habitat, but I will definitely look into
39 that.

40
41 MR. FAGERSTROM: I think that's going
42 to be needed. It should have been done years ago.

43
44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other questions
45 for Julian at this point.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Julian, thank you for
50

1 a wonderful presentation. If you do have questions
2 that come to mind, please grab Julian and I'm sure
3 he'll try his best to address your questions.

4
5 MR. FISCHER: Thanks all of you very
6 much for your interest and your input. I appreciate
7 it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I did
10 want to quickly just touch on something that Billy said
11 because I think it's really important and sometimes we
12 forget.

13
14 Billy, your question was kind of who's
15 the middle man in terms of the fall/winter harvest
16 versus the subsistence harvest, if I understood your
17 question. Back on the back table and it might be in
18 your binder, but it talks about a meeting that's going
19 to occur two weeks from now, which is the Pacific
20 Flyway meeting.

21
22 The Pacific Flyway Council, as Julian
23 mentioned, is that Council that's comprised of 11
24 states that is in charge of harvest during the
25 fall/winter time period. What's really important to
26 know is that Jason Schamber from the Department of Fish
27 and Game sits on that Technical Committee of the
28 Council. One of Jason's jobs is to ensure that
29 interest of subsistence hunters and populations that
30 are important to subsistence hunters are considered
31 during the Pacific Flyway discussion.

32
33 So it's this balance between the
34 fall/winter harvest and the spring/summer harvest and
35 Jason's job, because he sits here and the Department of
36 Fish and Game, his job is to also set the harvest
37 regulations during the fall and winter here in Alaska
38 but also to represent subsistence interests. If you
39 see the agenda back there, you'll actually see
40 subsistence regulations and subsistence populations and
41 you'll see Jason's name is next to it.

42
43 The other person that also attends that
44 meeting is David Safine and David works for the
45 Migratory Bird Management Office and is kind of a
46 technical person that assists Jason and others in terms
47 of population data.

48
49 Finally, Mr. Dale here sits on the
50

1 Council itself. So Bruce represents the State of
2 Alaska. Like Julian mentioned, you've got California,
3 Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico,
4 Colorado and the Province of British Columbia all sit
5 on the Council. So Bruce actually represents and sits
6 on the Council by the Technical Committee.

7
8 MR. DALE: The other thing is that
9 Patty attends those meetings regularly and sometimes a
10 member from this body will attend with her to ensure
11 that subsistence and Alaska point of view is
12 represented.

13
14 Julian mentioned that Cackling Canada
15 Geese wintering in the Willamette Valley where a new
16 burgeoning grass seed industry is supporting them in
17 the winter whereas normally they'd be down by Klamath
18 Lake. That grass seed industry is not too crazy about
19 our Cacklers and would like to see lower numbers.
20 Through this body's work and our representation through
21 the Flyway Council we've reached an acceptable level of
22 population objective, but it was pretty contentious
23 especially with the state of Oregon. So you're pretty
24 well represented there, I think.

25
26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Gayla.

27
28 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 While we're talking about Pacific Flyway Council I
30 figured this would be a good place to put it in. Are
31 we doing the request for the increased swan bag limit
32 request from ADF&G? Did that get put into the Pacific
33 Flyway Council?

34
35 MR. SCHAMBER: Gayla, thank you.
36 That's still a work in progress. I'd still like to
37 further discuss it with folks here at the AMBCC so we
38 can nail down a reasonable strategy for making that
39 request next year.

40
41 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Because I was just
42 looking through the notes from the last meeting that we
43 had. You know, the recap of our action items from the
44 September meeting of last year and that was increase
45 swan bag limit. ADF&G will send a proposal.

46
47 MR. SCHAMBER: Part of that I needed
48 some time to consult with other State representatives
49 and understand the process for making that request,

50

1 which it's going to require an amendment to the
2 management plan itself, which will first need to be
3 approved by Council and then we could submit a proposal
4 for an increased bag limit.

5
6 MS. HOSETH: Okay. So would we do that
7 at the April meeting where we would look at that again
8 for discussion?

9
10 MR. SCHAMBER: In March we will look to
11 amend that management plan and then the proposal for an
12 increased bag limit for swans could be proposed for
13 next fall.

14
15 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 MR. DALE: Billy's not here but he also
18 asked if the funding source for the surveys that are
19 done in the Lower 48 and here by the Service and it is
20 the Migratory Bird Program, but the funding for the
21 Service's revenue source is the Federal Duck Stamp that
22 people buy in the Lower 48 and people from not in the
23 included areas in Alaska. And then on the State side
24 the revenue comes from the State Duck Stamp as well as
25 the match to Pittman-Robertson Funds, which is a tax
26 nationwide on ammunition and hunting equipment and
27 archery equipment.

28
29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thanks, Bruce. Gayla
30 is going to have to catch a flight here, so she has
31 asked to provide some closing comments and also Cyrus
32 will be sitting in for Gayla here in the rest of the
33 meeting. So, Gayla.

34
35 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
36 I won't take up too much time, but I just wanted to say
37 thank you for a historical AMBCC meeting this fall. I
38 think that through the events that happened yesterday
39 our people will be able to start the healing process
40 like we talked about yesterday.

41
42 It's just amazing that through this
43 process and the people around the table here we've
44 really become very close and it's just like our long
45 lost family members that we see every so often as we
46 bring the voices of the people from Alaska and through
47 those voices change happens and positive change
48 happens. It's an honor to serve on the Bristol Bay
49 Region. It's also an honor to serve with everybody

50

1 here. Cyrus will sit in my place for the Native
2 Caucus.
3

4 And I just wanted to say that through
5 working with the Native Caucus and Bruce Dale mentioned
6 earlier about the Board of Game proposals that Jason is
7 going to highlight on about the wanton waste definition
8 that was a real historical moment as well of voices
9 being heard and the State recognizing that those are
10 edible pieces of the swans, geese and cranes. So we're
11 making progress throughout the state.
12

13 Thank you, everybody.
14

15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gayla.
16 All right. Jason, you are on the podium and it's going
17 to be a report on the fall/winter harvest season.
18

19 MR. SCHAMBER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 My name is Jason Schamber. I'm the coordinator for the
21 Statewide Waterfowl Program at the Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game. Today I'll presenting just a few topics
23 related to the fall/winter season.
24

25 Those include an update on the
26 fall/winter Emperor Goose hunt and this will include
27 both summary of results from last year's hunt in 2017
28 as well as a brief update on what's happening with the
29 current hunt in 2018.
30

31 Then I'll touch on the Board of Game
32 rulings on the three Native Caucus proposals that were
33 submitted to the Board of Game for consideration at
34 their statewide meeting last November.
35

36 Then also list the 2018 proposals to
37 the Board of Game for the Southeast and Southcentral
38 Regions that will be considered at their respective
39 meetings next year.
40

41 Finally, I'll cover the State proposals
42 for framework changes for the 2019 fall harvest next
43 year that will be considered by the Pacific Flyway
44 Council at their meeting later this month.
45

46 So to begin with the Emperor Goose hunt
47 I thought I'd just put together a couple slides as
48 review just to reorient folks to the hunt and how it's
49 structured. So there's 1,000 birds available to
50

1 harvest statewide and that's in the Federal framework.
2 This hunt is administered as a registration permit
3 hunt.
4

5 Any Alaska resident can obtain a permit
6 to hunt Emperor Geese. That permit allows a hunter to
7 harvest one Emperor Goose per season. Those permits
8 can be obtained at the Fish and Game website online or
9 at any Fish and Game office across the state. There
10 are also hard copy permits available in coastal
11 villages where Emperor Geese are hunted.
12

13 Next slide. So there are seven hunt
14 areas across the range of Emperor Geese in the state of
15 Alaska and their hunt boundaries are defined by Fish
16 and Game management units and also the Izembek State
17 Game Refuge. Their season dates are the same as the
18 zone season dates in which those Game Management Units
19 occur. So the season dates for Emperor Geese are the
20 same as any other goose or duck that you may be
21 hunting.
22

23 In the northern hunt areas the hunt
24 starts on September 1st and ends on December 16. In
25 Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands it starts on October
26 8th and ends on January 22nd. The Izembek State Game
27 Refuge the hunt is open for two weeks only October 16
28 through October 31st.
29

30 Next slide. In each of the seven hunt
31 areas has an individual harvest quota which all
32 together sum to the 1,000 bird statewide quota. In the
33 northern regions and the Izembek State Game Refuge that
34 quota was set to 125 birds. Bristol Bay was 150 birds
35 and then Kodiak and the Aleutians each have 175 bird
36 quota.
37 If these quotas are met in any specific hunt area, that
38 hunt area will be closed by emergency order.
39

40 This is a permit hunt, so there's a
41 mandatory reporting period associated with it and
42 that's either 24 or 72 hours depending on where you're
43 hunting. Hunters can report their harvest either by 1-
44 800 phone number and that call comes straight to our
45 office. During business hours there will be a person
46 that will answer the phone and take the report.
47 Otherwise outside of business hours there is a phone
48 message that's requests specific information that
49 hunters leave to file their report or a hunter can file
50

1 online at the Fish and Game website directly.

2

3 Next slide. So this is a summary of
4 the results from the 2017 hunt last year. I'll walk us
5 through the table. The left most column are the hunt
6 areas, so each region is oriented roughly north to
7 south and the next column is their associated harvest
8 quotas that sum to 1,000 birds. The column following
9 are the number of permits that were obtained online by
10 hunters and that total across the seven hunt areas to
11 509 permits.

12

13

14 The next column are the number of paper
15 permits that were obtained. I think we issued just
16 under 1,700 permits to vendors around the coastal areas
17 and three total were issued; two in Bristol Bay and one
18 in the Kodiak Archipelago. So at least based on this
19 first year of data it seems that hunters prefer to
20 obtain their permits online.

21

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1 manage Emperor Geese.

2

3 This year's hunt in 2018 is based on
4 last year's index and that's that final data point in
5 the trend line there. That point was above both
6 harvest thresholds, therefore the hunt is open and
7 there were no restrictions associated with it. I
8 didn't put 2018's data in there, but Julian showed that
9 that data point is similar to last year, so the index
10 is about 30,000 birds. We would anticipate that next
11 year's hunt would be open and no restrictions
12 associated with that either.

13

14 Next slide. So the outreach going into
15 this fall's hunt was very similar to last year's
16 effort. We sent a number of flyers around to box
17 holders at coastal villages and hunt areas. There's a
18 copy of that flyer on the back table if anybody is
19 interested in seeing what was sent. We also sent
20 flyers to tribal councils in hunt areas as well.

21

22 We also played radio PSAs with some
23 hunt details in six hub villages. I believe that's
24 been played in four areas that are currently open and
25 then will be played later this month right before
26 Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands open.

27

28 I'd also like to mention that Brandon
29 Ahmasuk contacted me a couple weeks ago and asked if
30 Kawerak could post the PSA that's played in their
31 region on their Facebook page and I thought that was a
32 great idea. So if other regions would like to do the
33 same, please contact me and we can coordinate that
34 effort as well.

35

36 In terms of the permits, they were
37 available online this last July and we also distributed
38 700 paper copy permits to coastal villages and hunt
39 areas as well. That number 700 is reduced from the
40 little over 1,600 that we sent out last year and that's
41 just in response to the three that were issued last
42 year. I will mention that if a vendor does anticipate
43 running out of paper copy permits, they can contact us
44 and we can issue them additional ones.

45

46 To date, there have been 115 permits
47 obtained online. That is information as of this
48 morning. Five people have reported hunting Emperor
49 Goose so far and one Emperor Goose has been reported

50

1 harvested in the Bristol Bay Region, I think around
2 Cinder River.

3
4 Next slide. So the hunt is structured
5 this year very similar to last year, but there are a
6 couple of new items. One has been mentioned already in
7 this meeting. The proxy hunt was approved by the Board
8 of Game last year, so that is in regulation this year.
9 A resident hunter that's holding a hunting license can
10 take an Emperor Goose for another resident that may not
11 be able to participate in the hunt because they're
12 blind, physically disabled or 65 years of age or older.

13
14 Also if folks recall nonresidents are
15 able to participate in the hunt this year as well. 25
16 draw permits were awarded to individuals this last
17 February to participate in the hunt.

18
19 Next slide, Julian. That nonresident
20 hunt is structured just a little bit different than the
21 resident hunt. It includes only one hunt area, but
22 four zones in that hunt area and those are in Units 8,
23 9 and 10 and also the Izembek State Game Refuge. I'll
24 just say those zones share the harvest quotas in each
25 of those resident hunt areas. So if that quota is
26 reached, both the nonresident and the resident hunt
27 would be closed by emergency order.

28
29 So that was it for the fall/winter
30 Emperor Goose update. Moving on to the Native Caucus
31 proposals to the Board of Game that were considered
32 last year at the statewide meeting. Proposal 4 was to
33 change the definition of edible meat for large game
34 birds.

35
36 Proposal 41 was to exempt permanent
37 residents of included areas from the requirement to
38 obtain a waterfowl conservation tag. This is also
39 known as the State Duck Stamp. For hunting waterfowl
40 during the spring/summer subsistence season. The third
41 Proposal 43 was to allow the taking of Emperor Geese by
42 proxy, as I just mentioned.

43
44 Next slide. So each of these in turn
45 I'll start with Proposal 4. That specifically was to
46 change the definition of edible meat for cranes, geese
47 and swans to include the meat of the back, wings,
48 gizzard and heart. This is in addition to current
49 regulation which requires hunters to salvage the edible

50

1 meat, which is defined as the meat of the breast, legs
2 and thighs.

3
4 After deliberation, the Board of Game
5 amended the definition in the proposal to exclude the
6 internal organs, so the gizzard and heart, but include
7 the meat of the back and the wings. Regarding the
8 wings, exclude the wing tips from that definition. So
9 those are the wing bones that are after the second
10 joint from the body. In that picture there it's the
11 metacarpals and the phalanges. Basically the hand of
12 the bird.

13
14 So as amended that proposal passed, so
15 it is in current regulation for this year. So a hunter
16 must salvage the edible meat from cranes, gease and
17 swans and that is defined as the meat of the breast,
18 legs, thighs, meat of the back and wings excluding the
19 wing tips.

20
21 Next slide. Proposal 41 was to exempt
22 permanent residents of included areas from the
23 requirement to obtain a waterfowl conservation tag or
24 the State Duck Stamp for hunting during the
25 spring/summer subsistence season.

26
27 This proposal failed. The statute
28 authorizes the Board of Game to exempt areas of the
29 state that are not likely to benefit from proceeds from
30 duck stamp sales and that money from the Duck Stamps
31 are earmarked towards the acquisition of wetlands that
32 are important for waterfowl and public use of waterfowl
33 or waterfowl related projects or the administration of
34 the Waterfowl Conservation Program, which is the
35 program that I work in, the Statewide Waterfowl Program
36 with the Department of Fish and Game.

37
38 So the Board of Game disagreed that
39 areas of the state would not likely benefit from the
40 Duck Stamp money. If they had agreed, they would have
41 necessarily by statute had to exempt residents and
42 nonresidents that were hunting in exempted areas during
43 both the spring/summer and fall/winter season. So that
44 essentially would have exempted 80 to 90 percent of the
45 waterfowl hunters in the state from the requirement of
46 purchasing a Duck Stamp.

47
48 I do want to remind folks that there
49 are current exemptions for the State Duck Stamp. If
50

1 you're an Alaska resident under the age of 18 or 60
2 years of age or older, you're not required to obtain a
3 State Duck Stamp. Likewise, if you're a disabled
4 veteran eligible for a free license or you qualify for
5 a \$5 low income license, you're not required to obtain
6 a State Duck Stamp to hunt waterfowl as well.

7
8 Next slide. Proposal 43 we've talked a
9 little bit about already. Allow the taking of Emperor
10 Geese by proxy. This passed and is currently in
11 regulation this year as I mentioned. There was a
12 provision to remove the trophy value of the bird by
13 removing the head. Proxy hunting by intent is for
14 food, not for trophy. After hearing some public
15 comment, the Board of Game amended this provision to
16 removing the skin from the head so hunters can salvage
17 meat from the neck.

18
19 Just a couple of conditions on that
20 proxy hunt that folks should understand. Both the
21 proxy hunter and the beneficiary must possess a hunting
22 license and Emperor Goose permits and also obtain a
23 proxy authorization from the Department of Fish and
24 Game.

25
26 Next slide. Go ahead, Jack.

27
28 MR. FAGERSTROM: Can you go back one.
29 Proxy and beneficiary must each possess. What about if
30 they're 60 years old?

31
32 MR. SCHAMBER: Except for the
33 exemptions, yes. Thank you. If you're exempted from
34 possessing a hunting license, then you're not required
35 to have one to participate in a proxy hunt.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. FAGERSTROM: (Away from
40 microphone).

41
42 MR. SCHAMBER: Correct. Somebody that
43 was 65 years of age or older.

44
45 MR. FAGERSTROM: Okay, thank you. Do
46 they still need a hunting license?

47
48 MR. SCHAMBER: At that point they may
49 possess a permanent identification card.

50

1 MS. PLETNIKOFF: So that's two Emperor
2 Goose permits?

3
4 MR. SCHAMBER: Yeah.

5
6 MS. PLETNIKOFF: But they'll only take
7 one.

8
9 MR. SCHAMBER: Well, the proxy hunt was
10 established so that a hunter who possessed an Emperor
11 Goose permit was only allowed to take one Emperor
12 Goose. They could share that with an elder or somebody
13 that was unable to participate in a hunt legally, but
14 they would be sacrificing their own bird to gift that
15 bird. So by establishing the proxy hunt both the proxy
16 hunter can keep their bird as well as hunt and get a
17 bird for the beneficiary.

18
19 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you.

20
21 MR. SCHAMBER: Okay. These are the
22 Board of Game proposals that were submitted for the
23 2018-19 season for the Southeast and Southcentral
24 Regions that will meet next year. The Southeast Region
25 meeting is scheduled for January 11th through 15th in
26 Petersburg and the Southcentral Region meeting is
27 scheduled for March 15th through 19th in Anchorage.

28
29 There were five proposals regarding
30 migratory game birds submitted to the Southeast Region.
31 Proposals 15, 16 and 29 deal with shifting the season
32 dates of the Southeast zone or part of the zone either
33 forward or backwards from the current season dates of
34 September 16th through December 31st.

35
36 Proposal 17 would seek to reserve
37 traditional waterfowl hunting areas in the Sitka region
38 for local hunters and would restrict guided hunts to
39 only sea ducks. Currently there are only a couple of
40 guides operating in the Sitka area and they guide for
41 sea ducks exclusively. So this proposal is seeking to
42 further exclude any new guide operations from hunting
43 anything other than sea ducks.

44
45 Proposal 30 would create a youth hunt
46 for waterfowl in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game
47 Refuge in Juneau.

48
49 There was only a single proposal that

50

1 was submitted for Southcentral, Proposal 92, and that
2 seeks to open a hunting season for Tundra Swans in Unit
3 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula.

4
5 Next slide. So I kind of ran through
6 those pretty quickly because they're just in proposal
7 form at this point, but if you want to read the
8 proposals themselves and find out more information
9 about the meetings, you can go to the Board of Game
10 website. That's the address there. There is also a
11 link from the Fish and Game home page to the Board of
12 Game site.

13
14 The Board of Game encourages the public
15 to participate in this process, so they welcome any
16 comments on any of the proposals from the public to
17 help in their decision-making. So if anybody would
18 like to comment on any of these proposals or others,
19 you can go to the Board of Game website and they have a
20 form there online that you can fill out or you can save
21 a PDF copy of your comments and either mail them or
22 drop them off in person at the Fish and Game Office in
23 Juneau or fax it to the Juneau office as well.

24
25 There is a deadline for comments prior
26 to the meetings. The deadline for the Southeast Region
27 is December 28th of this year and for the Southcentral
28 Region on March 1st, 2019.

29
30 Next slide. This is the final topic.
31 These are the proposals from the states to the Pacific
32 Flyway Council for their consideration for the 2019-20
33 harvest season, so next fall for their meeting
34 scheduled on September 28th in the Flagstaff, Arizona
35 area.

36
37 There were four proposals submitted
38 dealing with populations that occur in Alaska. Two
39 proposals for Tundra Swans from Idaho, Utah and Nevada.
40 A proposal on Brant from the Pacific Flyway states that
41 hunt Brant and that includes Alaska. Then a single
42 proposal for light geese from Idaho.

43
44 So to start with Idaho's proposal on
45 swans. They're proposing to open a new Tundra Swan
46 hunt in their state and this would occur in the four
47 northernmost counties of Idaho in the panhandle region.
48 This hunt would commence in 2020-21 season. All new
49 hunts according to the management plan need to be a
50

1 three year experimental hunt after which there's an
2 evaluation period.

3
4 Like all other Tundra Swan hunts in
5 other states, this will be a permit hunt and Idaho is
6 requesting 50 permits per year and they anticipate the
7 harvest will be about 45 percent. So harvesting 23
8 swans per year. It's a pretty low number.

9
10 Utah and Nevada is also proposing some
11 changes to the framework for swans. There are several.
12 They want to extend their outside dates so the start
13 date and the end date in which they can select their
14 swan season from a little earlier than their current
15 date of September 24th to start and then through the
16 last Sunday in January, which is a bit later than they
17 have now.

18
19 In essence, this would also extend
20 their season length to 107 days, which is the maximum
21 allowed for any hunting season and that would be an
22 increase from the 64 days in Montana, 72 days in Utah
23 and 100 days in Nevada. They're also seeking youth to
24 hunt swans with a permit during their youth waterfowl
25 hunting days and extend the harvest reporting from 72
26 hours to 120 hours.

27
28 In Nevada, they wish to increase the
29 Trumpeter Swan quota from 5 to 10. There is a quota in
30 place for each of these states. Once that quota is
31 reached the number of Trumpeter Swans harvested then
32 the hunt is over by emergency order. This is a Rocky
33 Mountain population of Trumpeter Swans that occurs in
34 these states. They've been increasing in the last
35 decade and have recently exceeded a threshold that was
36 agreed to in 2003 that allows them to increase their
37 swan quota. So they're looking to implement that next
38 year.

39
40 Finally in Utah they'd like to increase
41 their swan permits from 2,000 to 2,750 and they are
42 allowed to harvest one swan per permit. Also increase
43 their hunt area boundaries a bit to provide additional
44 opportunity.

45
46 Brant. The Pacific Flyway states that
47 hunt Brant which include Alaska, Washington, Oregon and
48 California, are proposing that next fall's season
49 frameworks be determined by the harvest strategy that

50

1 is in the newly revised and approved management plan.

2

3 Also incorporate the results of the
4 winter Brant survey reported in February 2019. This
5 one is a little awkward to explain. I tried it out on
6 a co-worker this morning and failed horribly. Ended up
7 with his eyes crossed. So bear with me.
8 This is the handout that I issued to everybody. I
9 added this slide to sort of help me out a little bit
10 after this was put in your binder.

11

12 Brant are managed using the three-year
13 average of the winter Brant survey and that's conducted
14 annually by Coastal Pacific states in January. Julian
15 touched on this in his talk earlier. So that three-year
16 average is compared to the Brant harvest strategy
17 that's in the management plan and that determines the
18 regulation package that we are in for a fall season.

19

20 There are four regulation packages that
21 range from closed to liberal. For the last several
22 years we have been in a liberal package that is the
23 maximum daily bag limit and season length allowed by
24 the management plan. The current three-year average
25 that's based on the 2016, '17, '18 survey data is at
26 139,000 birds. So if you reference that table above,
27 that would put us in a moderate regulation package, so
28 we need to be more restrictive with our bag limits or
29 season lengths.

30

31 Under normal circumstances the Pacific
32 Flyway states would submit a proposal to change the
33 2019-20 regulations to a more restrictive package and
34 submit that to the Flyway Council at their meeting
35 later this month. If approved, that would go to the
36 SRC meeting next month in October and then it would
37 essentially be set in the Federal frameworks.

38

39 What this proposal seeks to do is wait
40 to set the frameworks after those meetings and when we
41 get the new survey data in January of 2019. So that
42 allows us to use the newest set of survey data as the
43 three-year average. So it would be the 2017, '18 and
44 '19 survey data that we would be using to determine the
45 regulation package relative to the harvest strategy.

46

47 That allows us to use the most recent
48 data, but it also allows us to be more responsive to
49 the population. If we were to use the older set of

50

1 survey data, it would be 18 months until those harvest
2 regulations were in effect in 2019 versus several
3 months if we were to use the 2019 set of data.

4
5 I use the 2019-20 regulations for
6 illustrative purposes, but the intent of the proposal
7 is to sort of make this permanent so we would be
8 delaying setting the frameworks until after the Council
9 and the SRC meetings and we received the new set of
10 survey data to determine the regulation package that is
11 published in the final frameworks sometime after
12 February.

13
14 Does that make sense to everybody? No.
15 Shoot.

16
17 MR. FAGERSTROM: Yeah, now that we're
18 closer, more restrictions.

19
20 MR. SCHAMBER: No. Okay. It could go
21 either way, right. So either the population goes up or
22 it goes down. This allows us to be more responsive
23 with our harvest regulations with a more recent set of
24 data than what we're using currently.

25
26 Let's say for example we stay in the
27 liberal package, right. We have the highest daily bag
28 limits and season lengths allowed and that's using the
29 2016 through 2018 survey data. So we go through the
30 flyway process, the regulations are set in frameworks
31 for the 2019 season and then we receive survey data a
32 couple months later in January that suggests the
33 population went down and we should have been
34 restrictive with our regulations. It's going to be an
35 entire year before we can change those regulations and
36 they're implemented in the 2020 season.

37
38 Is that clear as mud?

39
40 MS. STICKWAN: Liberalizing seasons.
41 It seems to me like they're liberalizing the hunting
42 opportunities based on the January count.

43
44 MR. SCHAMBER: We're using the most
45 recent survey data or we'd like to use the most recent
46 survey data, but that data would be compared to the
47 harvest strategy. It would be linked to the harvest
48 strategy. So the frameworks would be automatically
49 set, dictated by the harvest strategy in the Brant
50

1 plan.
2

3 So whatever that three-year average is
4 all states will take the regulation package it matches
5 up with in the Brant Harvest Strategy and the
6 Management Plan. So if the three-year average from the
7 2017-19 survey stay at 139,000 birds, then we will be
8 in a moderate package. We'll be more restrictive.
9

10 If anybody has any additional questions
11 or need further clarification, catch me at a break or
12 after the meeting and then we can talk more about it.
13

14 This is the last slide. The final
15 proposal was from Idaho dealing with Ross's and Snow
16 Geese. Snow Geese occur up here, but Ross's Geese
17 occur in the Lower 48. Idaho is proposing boundary
18 changes to two of their hunt zones. They want to
19 reduce one hunt zone and add those areas to another
20 hunt zone and that's just going to align better with
21 the distribution of geese as they migrate through their
22 state and provide additional hunting opportunity for
23 light geese to their hunters in that state.
24

25 We've heard that there's concerns about
26 high abundance of Snow Geese, so this fits with the
27 goals of the flyway to liberalize hunting regulations.
28

29 I'll just say thank you for your time.
30 Sorry for some of the confusion. If anybody has any
31 additional questions, I guess you can catch me after
32 the meeting. That's my contact information if anybody
33 has any questions after the meeting or concerns.
34 Please feel free to contact me either by phone or over
35 email.
36

37 As Eric mentioned before, I can take
38 any questions or concerns that you folks have to the
39 Study Committee meeting later this month and we can
40 discuss it there.
41

42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Great. Thank you
43 very much, Jason. Great presentation. We've been at
44 it for two hours. I'm going to recommend a 10 minute
45 break. Please keep it to 10 minutes. We're pushing
46 the limit here in terms of our agenda and trying to get
47 out of here.
48

49 Please be back here at 10 after 3:00.
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 (Off record)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We're going to
8 reconvene. Randy has to take off to catch a flight
9 back to Fairbanks and would like to take this
10 opportunity for a few closing comments. Randy, the
11 floor is yours.

12
13 MR. MAYO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
14 just like to thank my fellow Native Caucus board
15 members and the Chair Eric and Bruce, Patty and also
16 the State and Federal agency people putting a lot of
17 effort into this and try to make things better for
18 future generations. So I'd like to thank everybody for
19 all their hard work there. Good meeting.

20
21 Maybe next year could think about the
22 spring meeting some place other than Anchorage. I know
23 it was mentioned before to get out where there's a lot
24 more people that use the spring hunt for food, you
25 know. So I'd like to put that out there again.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Randy. At
30 this time it's my pleasure to introduce Robb Kaler.
31 Robb is a sea bird biologist with our Migratory Bird
32 Management Program. Right after Robb it's my great
33 pleasure to introduce Julia Parrish, who is the head of
34 the COASST program at University of Washington. So
35 Robb is going to take the first part of the
36 presentation.

37
38 I know this is going to be of great
39 interest because we've had interest in sea bird die-
40 offs from multiple councils from the Northwest Arctic
41 to Bering Strait, Norton Sound, to Yukon Delta, Bristol
42 Bay. So all of us have experienced lots of sea bird
43 mortality events in the past several years, so here's
44 an opportunity to kind of hear from the two experts
45 that have worked closely with Fish and Wildlife
46 Service.

47
48 Robb, the floor is yours.

49
50

1 MR. KALER: Thanks very much for that,
2 Eric. I appreciate the introduction. I really
3 appreciate the opportunity to address the Council.
4 We've been fortunate to be able to present to you for
5 the last three years. I think this might be our fourth
6 year. I guess I just want to emphasize that this is a
7 cooperative effort and we are tremendously grateful for
8 all of the support we've gotten from the village
9 communities. The non-government partners as well as
10 the agency partners.

11
12 With that I'm hoping to have plenty of
13 time for questions and comments as well before I
14 introduce Julia.

15
16 We do have a one-page handout. I
17 believe that's in Tab 7 of your binder. This is
18 actually an updated map that COASST, Coastal
19 Observation And Seabird Survey Team, produced earlier
20 this week kind of including the August data that we
21 received from folks like Brandon at Nome and Gay
22 Sheffield, Sea Grant, as well as the Park Service who
23 have continued to collect reports and observations from
24 the field.

25
26 A brief summary is that beginning in
27 May 2018 we were receiving reports from Brandon and Gay
28 from the Nome region. Originally Thick-billed Murres
29 were the number one bird being reported and it was from
30 dozens to hundreds. That included all the way from
31 Gambell up into the Bering Strait region. That then
32 kind of continued into June where we started getting
33 reports of other species; kittiwakes, gulls, puffins
34 and auklets.

35
36 Once you start getting the auklets,
37 you're seeing a different food niche really. Auklets
38 feed primarily on large zooplankton, so it was not just
39 a forage fish issue that we were thinking might be
40 happening, but actually going into the plankton piece
41 of the marine environment as well.

42
43 Again, as I mentioned, this was a huge
44 collaboration with partners and this is ongoing. I
45 think the last few times I've addressed the Council we
46 were talking about the 2015-2016 Murre die-off that
47 occurred in the Gulf of Alaska. That's one of the
48 largest events that we've recorded and possibly
49 globally the largest seabird die-off ever reported.

50

1 So we've been working with our partners
2 in the field to get carcasses collected. We've also
3 been working with the organization Bering Watch, as
4 well as the Coastal Observation Seabird Survey Team,
5 Sea Grant, trying to get carcasses. We really need
6 fresh, recently died carcasses frozen very quickly,
7 shipped to us here in Anchorage where I then receive
8 them or one of the other folks from the Migratory Bird
9 Program, and then we quickly get those off to the USGS
10 National Wildlife Health Center in Madison.

11
12 At Madison they do a necropsy
13 essentially. A physical examination of the bird,
14 looking for parasites, and then they're also doing
15 disease panels, avian cholera, avian influenza, looking
16 to see if the cause of death is a starvation event.
17 Perhaps it's a biotoxin event or an infectious disease.
18 We want to very quickly identify what that cause is
19 especially if it's an infectious disease, of course.

20
21 We've been able to at this time have 20
22 carcasses examined. To this date all cause of death
23 has been linked to starvation. An additional process,
24 and this is working with USGS Alaska Science Center,
25 who I believe I mentioned this the last fall that I was
26 able to present to the Council.

27
28 They've started a harmful algal bloom
29 testing lab here in Anchorage. The carcasses
30 originally go to Madison where tissues are collected
31 and then sent back to Alaska, to Anchorage, where
32 they'll be examined and tested for concentration levels
33 of saxitoxin and domoic acid. Those are the two main
34 harmful algal bloom toxins associated with harmful
35 algal blooms in Alaska.

36
37 It's been an ongoing effort. I think
38 we've come a long way since the 2015-2016 Murre die-
39 off. We have a lot more answers, but again it's really
40 taking numerous villages literally to provide us with
41 these types of information. A big thing -- you know,
42 as an individual who sits behind a computer screen in
43 Anchorage trying to get that information from the
44 field, once we have that and we get updates from the
45 USGS, finding a way to get that back to the
46 communities.

47
48 So we really rely on the AMBCC. Patty
49 has been really integral in doing that, but we can
50

1 always do better. With that, I'd like to say thank you
2 for everybody's help with that. It's a continuing
3 effort. It's never over. Unfortunately these seabird
4 die-offs continue at a frequent rate that's becoming
5 quite alarming.

6
7 MR. SFORMO: This handout just differs
8 a little bit. Barrow is cut off and things like that.
9 How do you read the Barrow dot there?

10
11 MR. KALER: I apologize for not having
12 a fresh map. The map that's on the screen now is
13 different than the handout. How do we explain the
14 Barrow piece? We don't. Those were Shearwaters and I
15 believe Northern Fulmars. That began a conversation
16 with the North Slope Borough with their Department of
17 Wildlife Management, specifically with Raphaela. I
18 know they're doing marine mammal watches on the beach,
19 so we are actually trying to coordinate a die-off alert
20 protocol that COASST has developed here after the 2016
21 puffin die-off in the Pribilofs.

22
23 MR. SFORMO: So that doesn't pertain to
24 the July.

25
26 MR. KALER: That was in July, yeah.

27
28 MR. SFORMO: It does pertain. Okay.
29 And then the last question, so all 1,400 related to
30 starvation.

31
32 MR. KALER: Yeah. Well, the ones that
33 we've examined have been linked to starvation. We are
34 kind of extrapolating that to say we believe there's a
35 food shortage issue and a marine ecosystem that's
36 leading to emaciation.

37
38 MR. SFORMO: Thanks.

39
40 MR. KALER: Thanks for clarifying that.
41 We'll update this and get it to Patty and then Patty
42 will probably get that into your email action item.

43
44 So these slides are really just -- you
45 know, we are coordinating with our partners. We're
46 trying to essentially determine what is happening.
47 Historically die-off events do occur. The one in 2015-
48 2016 in the Gulf of Alaska that was very prominent.
49 That's actually continued into other events. They're
50

1 separate events, but October and November of 2016 in
2 the Pribilofs.

3
4 St. Paul recorded a minimum of 300
5 times the number of dead puffins on their beaches
6 compared to the previous 10 years. Those 10 years of
7 data are based on the Coastal Observation And Seabird
8 Survey Team monitoring effort that's coordinated with
9 the St. Paul Tribal Government.

10
11 It's that data that really give us some
12 teeth to talk about how significant is this event, how
13 does it compare to long-term patterns and so we're
14 really promoting the partnership with COASST, both with
15 their monthly beach surveys as well as this die-off
16 alert protocol.

17
18 So when you do see birds -- you go down
19 to go clamming, for example, you see dead birds washing
20 up on the beach, this would be an opportunity to get
21 that information recorded and added to these maps and
22 really contribute to that broader understanding of the
23 patterns that we're observing with seabird die-offs in
24 Alaska.

25
26 This slide is really just to point out
27 warm sea surface temperature. These are indicating
28 anomalies from what you would consider normal. I don't
29 think well in Celsius myself, so I looked up online and
30 1 degree Celsius is almost 2 degrees Fahrenheit.
31 You're seeing a significant -- so the dark -- if you
32 don't see colors very well, the darker images, Eric,
33 are the higher sea surface temperatures. I don't mean
34 to be insensitive either.

35
36 MR. DEVINE: I have a question -- or
37 not a question, just a -- back -- okay, I'll go up to
38 the map here in a minute. Back when we had that big
39 mortality rate in the Gulf of Alaska and then the same
40 thing happened in St. Paul, I'll show you the colors.

41
42 I went out to a meeting in Dutch Harbor
43 September that year and I'll show you what the water
44 colors were supposed to be and I'll show you what they
45 were. Maybe you could refer back to NOAA's map that
46 they put out in 2016 of the State of Alaska that shows
47 all that aqua blue that made it look like the Caribbean
48 Island.

49
50

1 I'll show you where the -- as soon as
2 we got into Bristol Bay I could see there was something
3 wrong. It never changed until we got all the way down
4 past Unimak Island. I'll show you where that was.

5
6 MR. KALER: Yeah, I believe -- so Julie
7 has been thinking about these things much longer than I
8 have. Not to say that she's old.....

9
10 MR. DEVINE: This is the color it was
11 and this is what it was supposed to look like. Summer
12 was already past and we're into fall, but it was still
13 aqua blue up there.

14
15 MS. PARRISH: If I might. That was a
16 big bloom of single-celled algae called
17 coccolithophores and they reflect the light of the sun
18 and they make the water look exactly like that,
19 Caribbean. That bloom was so large that you could see
20 it from space.

21
22 MR. KALER: Thank you, Peter. So we
23 also talked a little bit about the Nome Nugget article.
24 This was a fellow who had been on the Fishing Vessel
25 Alaska Night and came and gave a Bering Strait talk. I
26 think Gay Sheffield had organized that. I believe that
27 series is called Straight Science. The point here is
28 that folks that were up there knew that there was a
29 serious lack of sea ice. An unprecedented amount of
30 open water.

31
32 The preliminary results from that
33 cruise which went up, I think, towards Diomedes, they
34 were not able to find the cold pool of water
35 essentially. I think we talked about that during the
36 -- well, the reps gave discussions about what they had
37 seen and talking about this as well. Essentially a 37-
38 year dataset where the first time in 37 years they were
39 unable to find that cold water barrier. That's, of
40 course, going to have cascading effects through the
41 marine ecosystem. Fish are very sensitive to
42 temperatures, but as well as the plankton and the
43 salinity.

44
45 I guess what kind of stuck out to me is
46 that the presentation included a comparison between the
47 2010 and 2017, the biomass of the pollock and cod and I
48 think this has already been touched on, but a
49 significant increase. In talking with some NOAA
50

1 colleagues, the genetics of the pollock they were
2 finding are very similar to the genetics that they were
3 finding further south, from which you would infer that
4 these are the same fish. They're simply moving further
5 north.

6
7 Right now it's very hard to pool all
8 this information together because some of this is
9 actually just wrapping up now as we talk. Alaska
10 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge has about nine field
11 camps out and they are monitoring seabird populations,
12 productivity, the timing of their breeding and their
13 overall population sizes.

14
15 At the same time there were 11 research
16 cruises coming out of the Gulf of Alaska going up into
17 the Bering Strait and up into the Beaufort. Those
18 cruises are all compiling those data now. Hopefully
19 we'll have more information in October and November
20 when they have a chance to really sit down and do some
21 of the preliminary analyses but get an idea of really
22 what they were seeing out there. I'm really looking
23 forward to that myself.

24
25 These are kind of side conversations
26 I've had with staff at Alaska Maritime National Refuge
27 and I think this was talked about during the round
28 robin from the regional reps, but essentially low
29 numbers of seabirds were seen at colonies. When they
30 did begin breeding, in addition to those low numbers,
31 not many were breeding.

32
33 As a kind of anecdotal, we've been
34 seeing birds, Murres specifically from St. Lazaria in
35 the Southeast of Alaska, those numbers population-wise
36 based on Alaska Maritime numbers have been decreasing.
37 Population essentially going down. But numbers in
38 areas like Cape Lisburne near Point Hope on the map
39 there those numbers going up. So it seems like some of
40 these birds they're simply moving further north and we
41 would assume that they're tracking the cooler water
42 that are more productive from a marine organism
43 perspective.

44
45 So in addition to low colony counts,
46 birds breeding later, but anecdotally on a conversation
47 I had last night with a colleague at Alaska Maritime
48 that productivity was actually about the same overall,
49 which is about 55 percent. Meaning that a Murre that
50

1 lays an egg, 55 percent chance that that egg will
2 fledge. It will hatch and then that chick will fledge.
3 That's not to say that that chick will then become an
4 adult. It still has four years to survive before it
5 will be a breeder. So I guess a little ray of hope and
6 sunshine perhaps.

7
8 With that, I want to emphasize that the
9 work that we do in Alaska, Fish and Wildlife Service,
10 with our partners at the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
11 management Council, Bering Watch, we really rely on
12 that partnership to get this information to us so that
13 we can get it back to you and that's really a key part.

14
15 With that, it really is a pleasure to
16 introduce Julia Parrish. She is the executive director
17 for the Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team
18 based out of the University of Washington and that's a
19 Citizen Science Program. With that I will let Julia
20 take over.

21
22 MS. PARRISH: Thanks, Robb. My name is
23 Julia Parrish. I'm a professor at the University of
24 Washington. I'm also the executive director of the
25 Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team. Thank you
26 very much for allowing me to speak with you today. I
27 truly appreciate the opportunity.

28
29 So COASST is a Citizen Science Program,
30 which means that we scientists work with coastal
31 community members in Alaska and in Washington state and
32 Oregon and California. We currently have 1,000 people
33 that are active in the program across those four
34 states.

35
36 Regular COASSTers, people who are going
37 out and doing monthly surveys go do a few things. When
38 they find a carcass on the beach, they figure out what
39 shape the foot is because it turns out you can tell a
40 lot about birds if you know about their feet. They
41 make three standard measurements of the bird, of the
42 wing, of the bill and of the foot. They take a
43 photograph of the belly and the back of the bird and
44 they put a scale measurement in that photograph. With
45 those pieces of information they use a field guide to
46 figure out what that bird is.

47
48 I'm going to show you these field
49 guides. These are the Alaska versions of the field
50

1 guide and these were created in conjunction with many
2 people in many villages and every dictionary of Native
3 names that we could find. So they contain not only the
4 Western names but the Native names of all of the birds
5 that we have in Alaska.
6

7 With this field guide and starting with
8 the feet of the bird, somebody who is not a Western
9 expert in birds can get to the foot type family and
10 then follow the arrows until you get to a box with stop
11 signs and get to the species. What we've done is take
12 a lot of the jargon out of Western science and make it
13 very simple and straightforward to be able to figure
14 out what dead bird is in front of you if you don't
15 already know. Of course lots of people do know.
16

17 COASST uses these data to create a
18 graph that looks like this. These data happen to be
19 from coastal Oregon, but I'm showing you just a typical
20 example. On the X axis on the horizontal axis you're
21 seeing time and on the vertical axis you're seeing the
22 number of carcasses that you might find in a kilometer
23 of beach that you walk along the beach. At different
24 times of year you can see different numbers of birds of
25 all species.
26

27 After that birds that are breeding here
28 in Alaska come down to the West Coast. These are
29 Northern Fulmars and we see these in the winter kill
30 peak. Then we have a small spring peak when the
31 northern birds are migrating back. This bird is a
32 Rhinoceros Auklet and it migrates back to the coast of
33 B.C. and it breeds just north of Vancouver Island and
34 south of Haida Gwaii.
35

36 What we can do is create a graph that
37 looks like this, but it tells a story of what is
38 normal, what you expect in a given place at a given
39 time. Once you know that, you can then ask questions
40 when there is a difference. This is just an average
41 curve. The black line is the average and the yellow
42 wash is the variability year over year.
43

44 So the gray bars here are what actually
45 happened in that particular set of years. This is 2010
46 and '11. Sometimes the winter kill peak for instance
47 in that year was larger. I can look at this over time
48 over many years. This is the same data just stretched
49 over many years so it kind of looks like a heartbeat
50

1 over time.

2

3 For some periods of years things are
4 normal more or less. But if we look over more time and
5 more recently, we can see big red bars where things are
6 very abnormal. When there's a big mortality event that
7 happens on the beach.

8

9 This one in 2014 in the Lower 48
10 happened to be a bird called Cassin's Auklets. They
11 don't breed so much here. The center of their breeding
12 is in British Columbia just south of Haida Gwaii. This
13 alerted us that something was wrong with the system.

14

15 That wrongness continued and came north
16 into Alaska. You've heard about this before, but I
17 just want to show this to you briefly. These are
18 pictures from Whittier Beach in Prince William Sound
19 taken on New Year's Day by Dave Irons who went there
20 with his family to go sailing. Instead of sailing what
21 they did was walk the beach. Dave and his family
22 counted almost 7,000 Murre carcasses on one beach.
23 This is an unprecedented number.

24

25 This is the largest densest
26 concentration of dead birds we've ever seen anywhere in
27 the world and certainly anywhere in Alaska. Some of
28 that, of course, is the geomorphology of that system.
29 It's a long fjord and the wind pushes everything in the
30 water up to the head of the fjord. But this was a big
31 signal. This was the ecosystem screaming to us that
32 there's something going on.

33

34 This is two maps of all of the Murres
35 that were found dead on beaches not only in Prince
36 William Sound and down the Kenai, down the Alaska
37 Peninsula and out into the Aleutians and up into the
38 Pribis. You can see the top map is May through October
39 and the bottom map is November through April.

40

41 So over that winter and into the spring
42 everybody was out counting Murres. 46,000 bodies were
43 counted. That's 46,000 Murres that somebody held in
44 their hands and counted and identified it as a Murre.
45 That's a huge number. We think that easily 500,000 of
46 those birds died in that single event, probably more.
47 We'll never know for sure.

48

49 Two things I want to tell you about

50

1 that event. It happened over many, many months. Nine
2 months to be exact. That's the longest stretch of time
3 that we've seen a dead bird event. It was a very large
4 amount of space as well. This was in '15-'16. In '16-
5 '17 there was a very concentrated event on the Pribilof
6 Islands. In fact, not both of them, just on St. Paul,
7 mainly of Tufted Puffins.

8
9 This event was quantified by the Aleut
10 Community of St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation
11 Office, including these four amazing people on the
12 bottom here; Pamela Lestenkof, Lauren Divine, Paul
13 Melovidov and Aaron Lestenkof. COASST has been
14 extremely fortunate to work with ECO for the last 12
15 years on St. Paul.

16
17 This is the first picture that I was
18 sent by Aaron Lestenkof and you can see there's a lot
19 of dead birds in this photograph. Mostly they're Tufted
20 Puffins, the dark-bodied birds with the orange bills,
21 but there are also Horned Puffins, the white-bodied
22 birds on the top, some Murres and some juvenile
23 Puffins.

24
25 In all we only found 357, 360 carcasses
26 on St. Paul, so that's a much lower number than the
27 Murre number I just told you about, but St. Paul is a
28 small island in the middle of the ocean. So to imagine
29 that those birds died at sea and floated to that
30 island, to those beaches, that's actually a really
31 large number.

32
33 Some other things to note about this
34 die-off. Most of the carcasses that wash ashore to the
35 Pribis are very quickly consumed by the Arctic foxes and
36 that's because it's very hard for them to survive over
37 the winter. So what washes into the shore is their
38 grocery store.

39
40 During that event 75 percent of those
41 carcasses were intact. What that means is that all of
42 the foxes on the island had enough to eat. In fact so
43 much to eat that they couldn't even go down and get
44 another carcass. So that's another ecosystem signal to
45 us that there were a lot of carcasses. Much more than
46 normal washing ashore. Rob mentioned that it was 300
47 times normal. It was about that, 300 to 400 times
48 normal.

1 We have been able to model this event
2 and put a mortality estimate on that, so we know that
3 somewhere between about 7,000 and 16,000 Tufted Puffins
4 died in that event. That is more Tufted Puffins than
5 nest in the Pribilofs. That's a huge number.
6

7 That also tells us that Puffins were
8 coming from throughout the Bering Sea on their
9 migration out to the edge of the shelf where the Pribis
10 are and that they aggregated around the island before
11 they died. So they're telling us things. We're just
12 not quite smart enough to understand how to interpret
13 what they're saying yet.
14

15 This is what we saw in the Bering Sea
16 and up into the Chukchi in '17-'18. So this is a map
17 similar to the one that Robb showed you, which I
18 actually will show you again. This event was mostly
19 Northern Fulmars and Short-tailed and Sooty
20 Shearwaters. The Shearwaters come from New Zealand.
21 They fly across the entire Pacific to get into the
22 Bering and Chukchi.
23

24 It's a very different set of birds.
25 Fulmars and Shearwaters are related to each other, but
26 they're very different from Murres and Puffins, who are
27 also related to each other. So a lot of carcasses
28 here. COASST doesn't have so many regular monitored
29 monthly sites up in the Chukchi. We have a few on
30 Shish, a few in Nome, one or two in Kotzebue and in
31 Cape Lisburne.
32

33 I'm going to put together an entire
34 mortality story just to give you a sense that what you
35 see in Alaska is connected to what we're seeing in the
36 Canadian coast and in the Lower 48. It's all part of
37 one big story. It's a story about the ocean becoming
38 warm. What you see on the bottom part of this graphic
39 in yellow and in red is a trace of the warmth of the
40 ocean. When it's yellow, it's above normal and when
41 it's red it's 1 degree Celsius, so just a little under
42 2 degrees Fahrenheit under normal.
43

44 You might think that that's a small
45 number, but an ocean is like your body. So think about
46 having a fever. Even a 2 degree change in temperature
47 can make you really sick. The ocean is the same way.
48 It's not like the air. Just a small change in
49 temperature can be a big impact.
50

1 What you can see here if you look at
2 Chukchi is that signal of warming has been going on for
3 many years. You all know this because you are there.
4 But the warming of the world, the warming of the ocean
5 is most intense in the Arctic. That is above normal,
6 different from normal. In about 2014 the entire North
7 Pacific lit up with warmth and that warmth continued
8 for almost four years.
9

10 I'm going to put on that top trace the
11 birds that dies. The size of the bubble is going to be
12 how big that mortality event is. So we saw Northern
13 Fulmars in the Lower 48 and then we saw Scoters and
14 then Black-leg Kittiwakes. As the death moved north,
15 it got bigger, it got more intense, it overlaid each
16 other until we got to last year.
17

18 So this is a trace of all of the
19 species that died in these events and it just gives you
20 a sense of birds coming to the south, to the Lower 48
21 and dying like Northern Fulmars and Scoters and then
22 that mortality event coming up into Alaska. This has
23 been going on for a long time. It's a huge story.
24 It's a big change in the ecosystem.
25

26 I have to say that we know this because
27 there are hundreds if not thousands of people that are
28 out on the beaches collecting the data. They're not
29 scientists. They don't work for agencies but they know
30 their place and they know what's different and that
31 allows us to put this story together and to push it out
32 to people and to call for change.
33

34 So this is this year and this is the
35 map that Robb just showed you. I've put the pictures
36 of the birds that we have found washing up. When I say
37 we, it's not COASST. Almost all of the data that we
38 have from this year are coming from communities. Often
39 communities where there's no COASST representation at
40 all and that's fine with us.
41

42 The role that COASST plays here is
43 simply to bring the data together. To make maps like
44 this, to help people bear witness to what's going on.
45 There are many, many different species involved. The
46 nature of this mortality event is shifting from a
47 single location and a single species to many locations
48 and many species happening over many months of time.
49 This is the ecosystem changing. This is a new normal.
50

1 So when things happened in the Pribs
2 and we started to notice this happening throughout
3 Alaska, we started to think about how COASST might be
4 able to help everybody document change. I just wanted
5 to show you this before I go to how we document things.
6

7 This is a map of the sea ice and it's
8 provided by NOAA. We've redone it. So the colored
9 portion of the ocean is the ocean under ice. This is
10 2011 and I'm just going to run you through the years so
11 you can see what's happened. So that's '11, 2012,
12 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, look how it's receding to the
13 north, and '18.
14

15 So the physical environment is changing
16 massively and the birds, of course, are paying
17 attention to that. This is a trace of all those years
18 together. You can see how those lines have moved up to
19 the north. I'm telling you something that you already
20 know, something that you live and that you experience.
21 To put it in these terms is often good for showing
22 other people what's going on.
23

24 Now I just want to tell you about the
25 Die-Off Alert. This is a co-created project with
26 COASST, my organization, and we started with the Aleut
27 Community of St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation
28 Office. These two gentlemen, Paul Melovidov and Aaron
29 Lestenkof, really had to change the way we did the
30 protocol when the Puffin event happened because there
31 were too many birds on the beach because it was
32 November and December and they were risking, in my
33 view, their own safety driving down the beach, which is
34 sometimes overwashed with waves. So they had to get
35 the carcasses and get up the beach and provide
36 photographs.
37

38 Together we came up with the Die-Off
39 Alert Project. It involves community members, Fish and
40 Wildlife, other agencies and COASST. We reached out to
41 Patty last year to involve AMBCC and get her feedback
42 and interaction on the Die-Off Alert.
43

44 So from a good photograph of dead
45 birds, which has rulers in it, we can tell what the
46 species is from the plumage and the body shape and
47 color. We can tell if it's an adult or not. We can
48 tell if that bird is in molt, if it's losing its flight
49 feathers and that tells us something about where we are
50

1 in the breeding cycle of that bird. We can tell if
2 it's in good condition or not by whether the eyes are
3 there or not. And we can tell, of course, the location
4 and date from the photograph.

5
6 So we've developed a simple way of
7 doing this so we can train people over the web or
8 coming to communities if we are invited. For people to
9 go out just with a camera or Smartphone we've developed
10 these cards that you can take with you onto the beach.
11 You can write with them and greased pencils, which I
12 also have and I'm happy to give to you.

13
14 You can see Aaron here. He's got his
15 carcasses and he's arranging them all body up and he's
16 putting a scaled ruler in. This was before we developed
17 the cards. The cards have what to do on one side and
18 you can actually just put the card down and use that as
19 the measuring device to photograph. When people are
20 doing this kind of work, it's really important that
21 they send us a map to tell us where they were on the
22 beach.

23
24 This is a lovely map that the ECO
25 office made and sent to us saying this is where we've
26 been on the beach and we can actually use this map and
27 get a length. People often do this for us. They go on
28 Google, they tell us where they start and where they
29 stopped and then they send this to us.

30
31 Here's how to take a really good
32 photograph of dead birds. You pose them all in the same
33 direction. You put the ones that are intact on one
34 side and then you put the ones that aren't intact on
35 the other side and you put the scale ruler in and you
36 take a photograph. It's very simple to do this and we
37 can take it from there.

38
39 What do you do with the carcasses
40 afterwards. Take them off the beach to prevent
41 recounting or if you want to leave them on the beach
42 because death is part of the life of the ecosystem, we
43 cut across the wing so that you know that you found
44 that carcass before. It's a very easy thing to do.

45
46 So here's the essential data. Here's
47 an email containing it that Aaron sent me. The date of
48 the survey, who did it, what the carcass count was, how
49 many photographs were taken and who surveyed. So all
50

1 that information is contained just in that email. It's
2 very short, straightforward to send.

3
4 So this information comes to us. What
5 do we do with it. For information that's given to us
6 by agency personnel, we make it immediately publicly
7 available. For information that's coming to us from
8 communities and from tribal governments we hold that
9 for you. We do not make it publicly available unless
10 you give us permission to do that. We're not the
11 decider about that. You are the decider about that.
12 We come to bodies like AMBCC and show you all of the
13 tribal data that have been collected so that you can
14 see it all.

15
16 So here's what we're asking. We at
17 COASST are asking for your consideration to be part of
18 the Die-Off Alert. As members and representatives of
19 your regions, we're asking for your leadership and your
20 participation in helping us out and helping us get to
21 communities, give communities information and offer
22 people the chance to participate in Die-Off Alert or in
23 our regular COASST Surveys.

24
25 We're also asking you for critical
26 review of our materials because it's only working with
27 communities that we can make it better. We're thinking
28 about whether it would be good to translate, for
29 instance, the card into Native languages rather than
30 keeping it only in English. We need help. We need
31 feedback. Whatever you're willing to give to us, we're
32 very happy to take.

33
34 And here's what we're offering to you.
35 All of the information that we have. We're an open
36 data organization unless you tell us to keep the data
37 closed. Also in person and web trainings when we have
38 the funding. We come to people, and we write grants to
39 get the funding and certainly partnership on your
40 terms.

41
42 You'll also get communications from us
43 and we're happy to send these to you whether you
44 participate in Die-Off Alert or not. We send a
45 quarterly E-newsletter, which has a lot of the
46 information that I gave you today and other
47 information. Also alerts about anything that we're
48 seeing in your region.

1 So thank you very much for allowing me
2 to present today. I know it's been a really long day.
3 So thank you for listening.

4
5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Julia. We
6 do have time for some questions for Julia.

7
8 MS. CHERNOFF: I have a question about
9 reporting. I'm wondering about if there's large
10 amounts of die-offs, you probably don't recommend that
11 people like cut birds open, but I could see where that
12 could be helpful when earlier we had a report of the
13 color of the liver. So I'm wondering if that might be
14 an addition that you guys don't really recommend to
15 people because of diseases or whatever, but if that
16 might be helpful at all.

17
18 MS. PARRISH: That's an absolutely
19 excellent question. As Robb mentioned, especially the
20 die-offs that we're seeing now that are spread widely
21 across space, there are many species, the very first
22 thing that we worry about is human safety and food
23 safety. Is it safe to eat these carcasses? They're
24 often quite fresh. And is there any disease.

25
26 When COASST is directly involved, if
27 there are COASSTers that are actually surveying, we get
28 very fresh carcasses where the eyes are clear, which
29 tells you that that carcass has only been dead for
30 hours to a very few days, and they're sent to U.S. Fish
31 and Wildlife Service and then shipped off so we can
32 figure out whether there's a disease or not.

33
34 People have learned how to open up the
35 birds and look for fat deposits to get a sense of how
36 emaciated they are, but we only advocate for that after
37 we know there's not a disease. We have, for instance,
38 trained folks on St. Paul and they do some of their own
39 necropsies now. So that's a possibility over the long
40 term. We don't do that training, but we can connect
41 you with people who do do that training.

42
43 MR. ADAMS: Thank you so much for your
44 very need presentation. A lot of the North Slope
45 residents have started to see a lot of die-off in the
46 past few years, especially in Point Hope where they
47 traditionally collect Murre eggs on their cliffs.
48 They're asking why are they dying. I just wanted to
49 thank you so much for all the information that's in our
50

1 booklets. They want us to come back home tonight or
2 tomorrow and give them reasons. Is there some planning
3 or something that you two can make visits to
4 communities?
5

6 I think it's only going to progress
7 even more. Last week I was out in the ocean and we
8 collected a red substance that was floating around and
9 sent it to Fairbanks to get it analyzed. I saw
10 thousands of Shearwaters that were around it, some
11 Phalaropes and other seabirds.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 MS. PARRISH: Billy, thank you for that
16 comment. I think it is the responsibility of
17 scientists, whether they come from the university or
18 agencies, to go to communities and talk about what we
19 know and tell the stories that we know and accept the
20 stories that you know because it's working together to
21 put the information together that makes it stronger.
22

23 What I can tell you is that with more
24 and more ice retreat, with later freeze-up and earlier
25 break-up, there's more time for open water to be there
26 and more time for carcasses to float in because the
27 water is open. So your communities are seeing things
28 that we haven't seen before. It's not just ships that
29 can go through open water. It's everything that
30 floats. So I think we have to think about that and we
31 all have to track together.
32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Do you want to come
34 up here.
35

36 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you. I just
37 wanted to point out that it might not be a long-term
38 solution, but in the short term tribes can use their
39 EPA GAP programs to get started with this kind of thing
40 and that there's an opportunity that Julia was offering
41 to have a specialty training that's just for reacting
42 to a die-off, which is different than the longer term,
43 more involved program of going out every month.
44

45 Of course that's great too, but
46 responding to the die-offs is something they have had
47 trainings of, like at the Alaska Forum for the
48 Environment for instance and a lot of your tribal
49 environmental program folks go to those. So it's a
50

1 great opportunity.
2

3 MS. PARRISH: Karen, thank you so much
4 for saying that. We will be at AFN, Alaska Marine
5 Science Symposium. So if there are folks from the
6 villages, we would be very happy to do any training
7 that people want.
8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Julia, thank you. I
10 particularly appreciate you flying up from Seattle and
11 University of Washington to take your time to address
12 the group. Both Julia and Robb did state, and I think
13 it's clear to all the members around the table,
14 unfortunately this problem is going to very likely
15 continue. So I think it's going to be really incumbent
16 upon particularly representatives from coastal
17 communities that continue to work with the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, Fish and Game and other agencies.
19

20 I do want to take a second. We have
21 two seabird biologists in addition to Robb that were
22 co-authors to Robb's presentation. Liz Labunski
23 standing in the top and waving her hand, and Dr. Kathy
24 Kuletz is sitting here in the corner. I can assure you
25 both in addition to Rob both Liz and Kathy have spent
26 substantive amount of time on the phone and in front of
27 TV cameras and conducting interviews from all across
28 Alaska trying to get the word out on seabird die-offs
29 and what agencies are trying to do to estimate and
30 determine the causes of seabird die-off. So I
31 certainly appreciate their efforts.
32

33 I think we're getting close, so hang in
34 there folks. I think the website has been covered by
35 Donna. The next agenda item is a quick financial
36 report, part of which you have received already, but
37 I'm going to give you a couple handouts that are not in
38 your binder, but will provide a reference to you here
39 in just a second.
40

41 (Pause)
42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: The two handouts I've
44 provided to Council, the first one is titled Fish and
45 Wildlife Service AMBCC FY18 Budget. So that covers
46 from the period of October 1st, 2017 through September
47 30th, 2018. So it covers basically the Service's cost
48 of administering the AMBCC program. So there's an
49 administration cost, harvest survey data collection
50

1 cost and then the grants to the regions. The grand
2 total at the bottom.

3
4 The second handout, the reason I wanted
5 this at the last minute is try to get the information
6 up to the last minute, are the grants to the regions
7 with the Fish and Game at the top and then Kawerak at
8 the bottom. So your award amount is in the left-hand
9 table, what has been spent up to date to our best of
10 knowledge. Obviously you'll have expenditures
11 associated with this meeting and then the remaining
12 balance right now.

13
14 To reiterate, the decision that we have
15 made and the Service is that what monies you do not
16 expend from your FY18 grants will be carried over to
17 FY19 and then added to your FY19 allocation. The
18 handout that you were provided before that goes through
19 the items associated with your grants, one of which is
20 outreach and education.

21
22 Again, just like we talked about
23 seabird die-off here just a few minutes ago, it's our
24 hope that the regions will consider using the
25 additional monies that you have for FY19 to consider
26 for outreach and education of which the Service will be
27 happy to try to help out with ideas and products and
28 even sending people in to talk about the topic, for
29 example, we just had from Julia and Robb on seabird
30 die-offs.

31
32 Any questions, I'll open up the floor
33 real quick, in terms of the budget and allocation. As
34 Gayla requested, I will put together a summary of the
35 Migratory Bird Management budget overall so you can get
36 an idea of what our total allocation is and how our
37 allocation is divided up among salaries of our
38 personnel and our various programs including the
39 Seabird Program, the Waterfowl Program and other
40 programs we have in the Migratory Bird Management
41 Office so you can see.

42
43 So I have covered the 2018 budget and
44 financial report. The request to carry over FY 2018
45 unspent funds and I gave you a status of the grants as
46 they stand right now. Any questions from any Council
47 members.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. Other
2 business. We'll move on. Future potential proposals.
3 The first item is amendment to invitation regulation.
4 Patty.

5
6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. At the Tanana Chiefs regional management
8 body meeting, I'm sorry that Randy has left to catch
9 his flight, but there was a question about the
10 invitation regulation for the Council. Just to remind
11 you that regulation was passed a couple years ago. So
12 people that are living in urban areas that want to go
13 hunting back in their home areas can do that by
14 invitation of the village council in that community.
15 So the question was asked about what if the people
16 going back to help the family harvest are not Native.

17
18 We didn't know and we were going to
19 look into that and that could be a potential proposal,
20 but I know Vince Mathews did some research on that for
21 Randy and his group, so I'd like to ask him to come up
22 and let us know what he found.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews,
25 Refuge Subsistence Specialist for Fish and Wildlife
26 Service. I'm regularly invited to attend the TCC
27 management body meetings and this did come up as she
28 described it. So I emailed back what I knew based on
29 the regulations for it.

30
31 So the key points that was shared with
32 them is directly from the regulations, that it has to
33 be an immediate family member and that it has to be --
34 the allowing of that harvest from someone outside the
35 included area is permission from the village council.
36 My understanding you can substitute village, you can
37 put in there tribal. Then the other part of it is the
38 definition of immediate family members and that is in
39 your regulation, means spouse, children, parents,
40 grandchildren, grandparents and siblings.

41
42 That gives you an idea of the
43 regulations. I'm glad that Patty cleared up that it
44 was looking at non-Native family members is how I
45 understood it. I will be meeting with one of the
46 subregional leaders for the TCC area at a meeting in
47 Tanana. I'll ask him further a little bit more detail
48 what he was striving for.

1 My understanding of your tracking this
2 is that they wanted to make sure this did not become a
3 loophole for other people to come in and hunt. For
4 myself I need a clear understanding what he was looking
5 at. He did give an example, but again I'd like to get
6 more information from him. So basically they want some
7 way to maybe further define who is under that family
8 definition.
9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, that almost
11 sounds like we don't need to do anything with it. It
12 looks like it's already allowed.
13

14 MR. MATHEWS: I think we need to get
15 further clarification from the mover of that topic. It
16 was not a motion. It was just an open discussion about
17 Natives in urban areas needing opportunities. There
18 was a lot of discussion going on. It's my
19 understanding they would have to put together a draft
20 proposal to run through their region and bring forward
21 to here. That's how I would see it going. I wish
22 Randy was here because there was probably more sidebar
23 conversations between individuals that I'm not party
24 to.
25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Thank you, Vince. I
27 just wanted to make the Council aware of that so that
28 may be one of the proposals we may be dealing with next
29 spring. It's the only one I've heard of so far.
30

31 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
32 Vince, just so I can understand, help me understand. A
33 member of the Tanana Chiefs Conference has requested
34 clarification on the situation of invitation of a
35 family member that's not living in the included area,
36 that's living in an excluded area, and the person feels
37 that the current regulations aren't clearly defined.
38 Do I understand you correctly?
39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. I think the crux of
41 it is is that the section in there, the permission of
42 the village council, tribal council. I think that's
43 where this issue lies. Again, with Randy not being
44 here, that's me speculating on that. I think that's
45 where the issue is because that was what was brought
46 up, as Patty said, a non-tribal member of a family
47 apparently not being allowed to come in to harvest.
48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you. So
50

1 you're going to work with Randy and if appropriate
2 submit a proposal during the fall proposal period for
3 consideration next year.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I'll just work with
6 them to see if they even want to pursue that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Vince.
9 Any questions. Peter.

10
11 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Just a comment. From my understanding it sounded like
13 spouse pretty much had it cleared up, but it sounds
14 like it's not enough for the agencies, so there is
15 another way. They could become honorary tribal
16 members. They won't have any voting rights, but that
17 would still make them a tribal member.

18
19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Peter.
20 Any other questions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Vince.
25 Other business. It brings us to update membership on
26 AMBCC committees. That's Tab 9. We'll go through the
27 committees for the AMBCC. The first one being the
28 Technical Committee. The first question is under the
29 subcommittee for Emperor Goose management Verner Wilson
30 is highlighted. I assume, Patty, Verner is no longer
31 going to be on that subcommittee, is that correct?

32
33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That's correct.

34
35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Is there an
36 alternate that's been identified?

37
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Well, Helen Aderman
39 is the alternate for the Bristol Bay, but I don't know.
40 She's not here either to find out if she's even
41 interested in being on that committee.

42
43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Peter.

44
45 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
46 Native Caucus hasn't discussed committee appointments.
47 Could we have a five-minute caucus to see who we want
48 on these committees?

1 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Absolutely. So we'll
2 take a five-minute break. Everyone that's not in the
3 Native Caucus please step out and we'll come back at
4 about 25 after 4:00. Is that sufficient?
5

6 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah. And if the
7 State and Federal partners could also review their
8 lists and see if there's any changes.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.
13

14 (Off record)
15

16 (On record)
17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We are now going to
19 go through the list of committee members and the
20 changes both from the Native Caucus, Fish and Wildlife
21 Service and State of Alaska.
22

23 Technical Committee. I'll start with
24 the Native Caucus.
25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No changes, Mr.
27 Chairman.
28

29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
30 State of Alaska.
31

32 MR. DALE: No changes, Mr. Chair.
33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: There is one change.
35 When the Technical Committee for the Fish and Wildlife
36 Service met the last time we voted for Julian Fischer
37 to be the chair and I am being removed from the
38 committee. So Julian Fischer from the Fish and
39 Wildlife Service will be the chair of the Technical
40 Committee.
41

42 Moving on to the Emperor Goose
43 Management Subcommittee. Native Caucus.
44

45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The only change we
46 have there, Mr. Chairman, is the one that's already
47 indicated, removing Verner Wilson.
48

49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Can I ask about
50

1 Roland White.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: AVCP will be having
4 their elections, so we will know at that time who the
5 executive committee will be, so we just left it on
6 there until we know for sure.

7

8 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State of
9 Alaska.

10

11 MR. DALE: No change.

12

13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Fish and
14 Wildlife Service would like to add two members. Dave
15 Safine and Bryan Daniels to that Emperor Goose
16 Subcommittee.

17

18 Subcommittee for Exclusion. Native
19 Caucus.

20

21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Remove Roy Ewan and
22 replace him with Gloria Stickwan. That's our only
23 change, Mr. Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State of
26 Alaska.

27

28 MR. DALE: No changes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Bruce.
31 Fish and Wildlife Service has one change. Remove Peter
32 Probasco and insert Eric Taylor. Since Pete was the
33 chair, the first meeting that we hold I will open it up
34 for any volunteers for a new subcommittee chair.

35

36 Moving on to Subcommittee Invitation.
37 Native Caucus.

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Remove Roy Ewan and
40 replace with Gloria Stickwan. That is our only change,
41 Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State of
44 Alaska.

45

46 MR. DALE: No changes, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. No
49 changes for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

50

1 Subcommittee Kodiak Road.
2
3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No changes, Mr.
4 Chairman.
5
6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: State of Alaska.
7
8 MR. DALE: No changes, Mr. Chair.
9
10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: No change for Fish
11 and Wildlife Service. Harvest Survey Committee.
12 Native Caucus.
13
14 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Remove Verner Wilson
15 and add Brandon Ahmasuk. That's the only change.
16
17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: State of Alaska.
18
19 MR. DALE: Mr. Chair, I think the
20 Harvest Committee we believe would be better served if
21 there was someone from Interior on it. I nominate
22 Randy Mayo since he's not here.
23
24 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Native Caucus,
25 comments on that.
26
27 MR. DEVINE: He will be pleased.
28
29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: He will be pleased?
30
31 (Laughter)
32
33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Said Peter Devine.
34 Lili.
35
36 MS. NAVES: Y-K Delta.
37
38 MR. DALE: If we add those two, Mr.
39 Chair, we'll have someone from every region.
40
41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: So Y-K Delta, do we
42 want to put a placeholder in until there is an
43 election.
44
45 MS. SCHWALENBERG: You can add
46 Jennifer.
47
48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We can put Jennifer.
49 Should we put Jennifer Hooper in for the other.....
50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: In place of Roland?
2
3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.
4
5 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. That was the
8 Emperor Goose.
9
10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's already on
11 there, Mr. Chair.
12
13 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes, she is. Thank
14 you.
15
16 MR. DALE: Who else isn't here that we
17 can add?
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's what they get
22 for everybody cutting out early. Standard Operating
23 Procedures Committee Ad Hoc. Native Caucus.
24
25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus would
26 like to add Brandon Ahmasuk to that committee.
27
28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.
29
30 MR. DALE: No changes for the State.
31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Fish and
33 Wildlife Service. We remove Pete Probasco and put in
34 Eric Taylor. Long Term Goals and Objectives Committee.
35 Native Caucus.
36
37 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Add Coral Chernoff.
38
39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State of
40 Alaska.
41
42 MR. DALE: No changes.
43
44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Fish and Wildlife
45 Service. Remove Peter Probasco, add Eric Taylor.
46 Flyway Council Service Regulations Committee
47 Representatives. Native Caucus.
48
49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Those
50

1 representatives will remain the same, Mr. Chairman, but
2 Jennifer Hooper will be accompanying me to the Service
3 Regulations Committee.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: To this meeting
8 coming up? All right. But she will remain an
9 alternate?

10
11 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Uh-huh
12 (affirmative).

13
14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Law Enforcement
15 Committee. Native Caucus.

16
17 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus would
18 like to add Gloria Stickwan, Mr. Chairman. That's it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: And Roy Ewan would
21 stay on as the committee chair?

22
23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, I'm sorry.
24 Remove him.

25
26 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Remove Roy and add
27 Gloria. Would you like to put Gloria on as the acting
28 committee chair?

29
30 MS. STICKWAN: No.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That was a no, a
33 quiet no. So we need a chair to call the committee
34 otherwise the committee never gets called. Let's see.
35 Is Brandon still here? Brandon, would you like to act
36 as the interim chair of the Law Enforcement Committee
37 and then once you have the committee meeting then you
38 can ask for a permanent chair?

39
40 MR. AHMASUK: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, sir. So
43 Brandon Ahmasuk is the interim chair. We're removing
44 Roy. Native Caucus, was that it?

45
46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

47
48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: State of Alaska. Oh,
49 I'm sorry. You added Gloria, correct?

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes, we did.

2
3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State.

4
5 MR. DALE: No change.

6
7 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: For the Fish and
8 Wildlife Service we will remove Jim Hjelmgren. Add
9 Dave Rippetto, R-I-P-P-E-T-O. Remove Ryan Noel and add
10 Rory, R-O-R-Y, Stark, S-T-A-R-K. Brandon is the
11 interim chair.

12
13 Budget Committee. Native Caucus.

14
15 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The Native Caucus
16 would like to remove Roy Ewan and replace him with
17 Gloria Stickwan. That's it, Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: State of Alaska.

20
21 MR. DALE: No change.

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I do have a quick
24 question on that subcommittee. I'm curious on why
25 there is no State or Federal representation on that
26 committee. Can you explain that to me, Patty.

27
28 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Lack of interest.
29 I'm not sure. We ask for volunteers and those are the
30 only people that volunteered.

31
32 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. I'm
33 volunteering to be on it. Add Eric Taylor.

34
35 MR. DALE: The State volunteers Bruce
36 Dale.

37
38 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Excellent. Thank
39 you. Handicrafts Committee. State of Alaska. I'm
40 sorry. Native Caucus.

41
42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The only change we
43 have to this one is removing Verner Wilson.

44
45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay.

46
47 MR. DALE: No change for the State.

48
49 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Todd, you're still
50

1 willing to be the committee chair?

2

3 MR. SFORMO: Sure.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Excellent. Fish and
6 Wildlife Service remove Pete Probasco, add Eric Taylor.

7

8 Outreach and Communication Committee.

9

10 Native Caucus.

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus would
13 like to remove Verner Wilson and Tonya Lee and add
14 Coral Chernoff.

15

16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: State of Alaska.

17

18 MR. DALE: No change, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Fish and Wildlife
21 Service has no change. Temporary committees working
22 groups. Government to government consultation. Native
23 Caucus.

24

25 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Remove Verner
26 Wilson.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Any other change?

29

30 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'm sorry. No other
31 changes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Joeneal Hicks, he
34 stays on?

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Gloria, we didn't
37 notice he was on there.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: I got a letter saying
40 that he was removed. That was sent to you.

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh. So you can take
43 his place?

44

45 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: That's government to
46 government consultation. Gloria.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: I guess.

49

50 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Did you say yes? I'm

1 sorry.

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, she did.

4

5 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes. Thank you. Add
6 Gloria. State of Alaska.

7

8 MR. DALE: No change.

9

10 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Co-management
11 Principles. Native Caucus.

12

13 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Remove Myron Naneng
14 and replace him with Jennifer Hooper and that's the
15 only change, Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: You also have Joeneal
18 Hicks on that committee.

19

20 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We'll just remove
21 him.

22

23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Remove Joeneal Hicks.
24 State of Alaska.

25

26 MR. DALE: No change.

27

28 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Fish and
29 Wildlife Service will put Eric Taylor on the committee.
30 Indigenous Inhabitant Definition.

31

32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus would
33 like to remove Joeneal Hicks and Tim Andrew and replace
34 them with Jennifer Hooper and -- Gloria, were you on
35 that committee or wanting to be on the next one?

36

37 MS. STICKWAN: I was going to be on
38 this.

39

40 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Okay. Add Gloria
41 Stickwan. That's it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Add Jennifer and
44 Gloria.

45

46 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. State of
49 Alaska.

50

1 MR. DALE: No change.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Fish and
4 Wildlife Service. Remove Pete Probasco, add Eric
5 Taylor.

6

7 Fall/Winter Subsistence Harvest Season.
8 Native Caucus.

9

10 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus remove
11 Joeneal Hicks and Tim Andrew and add Coral Chernoff,
12 Jack Fagerstrom and Karen Pletnikoff.

13

14 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State of
15 Alaska.

16

17 MR. DALE: Mr. Chair, we would like to
18 add Jim Fall to the committee.

19

20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service removes Pete Probasco and adds Eric
22 Taylor and Dave Safine, S-A-F-I-N-E.

23

24 Executive Director. Native Caucus.

25

26 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Native Caucus adds
27 Karen Linnell.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: That was
30 (indiscernible).

31

32 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Oh, never mind.

33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. No change?

35

36 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We have no change to
37 that committee.

38

39 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. State of
40 Alaska for the Executive Director.

41

42 MR. DALE: No change.

43

44 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Fish and Wildlife
45 Service removes Pete Probasco, adds Eric Taylor.

46

47 Last one. Contracting.

48

49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: This one Native

50

1 Caucus would like to add Karen Linnell, L-I-N-N-E-L-L.

2

3 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. State of
4 Alaska. You have no representation.

5

6 MR. DALE: The State of Alaska adds
7 Bruce Dale.

8

9 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you. Fish and
10 Wildlife Service remove Pete Probasco, add Eric Taylor.

11

12 Have I missed any committees,
13 subcommittees, ad hoc committees or temporary
14 committees?

15

16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: That would be it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We've covered them
19 all. All right. Thank you. I appreciate the
20 commitment. Hang on just a second. All those
21 committees have chairs, is that correct?

22

23 MS. SCHWALENBERG: (Shakes head no).

24

25 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: They do not.

26

27 MS. SCHWALENBERG: They will by the
28 time they all meet.

29

30 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: How are they going to
31 meet?

32

33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I will call them.

34

35 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Okay. Excellent. So
36 you're going to be in charge of adding stars to
37 wherever they're missing?

38

39 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Way to go. Thank
42 you. Where are we at? Council and Staff comments, 16.
43 Jack, can we start with you?

44

45 MR. DEVINE: Public comments.

46

47 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, invitation for
48 public comments. Sorry. Thanks, Peter. Keeping me in
49 line. Any comments from the public.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. DALE: We got one thumbs up. We'll
4 take that.

5

6 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: All right. We'll
7 take it.

8

9 MR. FAGERSTROM: Thanks to staff of
10 departments. Patty, Donna and everybody else. We had
11 a lot of good information like always. A few bumps in
12 the road, but it was good. Everybody have a safe
13 travel home and be safe.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Jack.
18 Billy.

19

20 MR. ADAMS: I'm just filling in for
21 Mike and I'm going to be very happy when he gets back.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. ADAMS: You know, it was a learning
26 experience for me as a hunter from the Slope. I had a
27 lot of feelings about what was done today. We were
28 very thankful for the apology from the Service and the
29 State of Alaska. I learned a lot the past few days of
30 how much work there is involved in dealing with
31 migratory birds. It gives a person a new perspective
32 on how much dedication there is from this body. I have
33 a lot of respect now for many of you. I learned a lot
34 and I will use it as a learning tool in the future.

35

36 Thank Todd and Carla for coming also.
37 I also want to thank Mike's friend here for dealing
38 with me. I knew Bruce for a while in other things. I
39 didn't know he was into this stuff too. I'm very
40 thankful to be here. Above all I thank my God and
41 Savior and pray that everybody will go home safely and
42 do the things that they like to do.

43

44 Quyanaq.

45

46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Billy. We
47 enjoyed having you. You filled in for Mike and Taqulik
48 in a very admirable way. Thank you for all your
49 efforts. I know it's always awkward to come into a new

50

1 group and not know what it's about. You had great
2 questions and great participation.

3
4 So thank you.

5
6 Gloria.

7
8 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say I'm
9 looking forward to serving on this. Last year I acted
10 for Roy. He appointed me. This time they had a vote
11 for me to serve as primary. I want to say I started
12 this day one. Donna Dewhurst was here. That was in
13 2000, I believe, and I'm back on again. I look forward
14 to serving and hope to do my best. I want to say thank
15 you to both State of Alaska and Fish and Wildlife for
16 their apology too. It was good to see that for people
17 up north that were cited and had their guns taken away.

18
19 Thank you for that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Gloria.
22 Peter.

23
24 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Staff and fellow board members. I've only been here 16
26 years, a short time. In the 16 years we've had our
27 trials, but it's all coming together finally. We're
28 seeing things being done. I'm looking forward to
29 participating in this fall and winter hunt that we'll
30 have in 2020. We've got a few years to work on it.
31 Hopefully we can get it in line. Other regions, other
32 states are opening up seasons. So I don't see why State
33 of Alaska couldn't to where we could-- yes, there are
34 hunts in existence now, but the State has to recognize
35 that there were hunts in existence for thousands of
36 years before the new hunts were developed.

37
38 What am I missing? Oh, culture camp.
39 If you guys want to -- we're having our -- if you want
40 to see about our culture camp and stuff, the Aleut
41 Corporation is having their annual meeting here next
42 month. I believe on the 21st and we have a culture
43 night if you guys want to come over and see our
44 dancers. The Sand Point Dancers will be performing
45 this year and our dance group is big. I mean we've
46 taken in kids from kindergarten all the way to 12th
47 grade.

48
49 We just completed our 19th year. Next

50

1 year will be our 20th year already. So if you want to
2 see that aspect of it, come over and see what the State
3 of Alaska helps with with sending their Refuge people
4 out to help with teaching the plants and the marine
5 life on the beach. You won't see that part of it, but
6 you can see what it comes down to. The performers are
7 pretty good.

8
9 What else. I guess I'll quit there
10 because I'm hungry.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. DEVINE: Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Peter.
17 One quick question. September 21st. Where is it at,
18 the celebration?

19
20 MR. DEVINE: It will be October 21st
21 down at the Egan.

22
23 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

24
25 MR. DEVINE: That's why I extended that
26 invitation. I mean you don't have to come to Sand
27 Point to watch the dancers. They'll be here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Good. Thank you.
30 Thank you for the invitation. Cyrus.

31
32 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A
33 historic moment. A great time to be here and a way to
34 get the meeting started. There's so much people to
35 thank. The Council here, everybody working together.
36 Some things doesn't happen overnight, but eventually
37 working through it it happens.

38
39 I'd like to thank the Council, the
40 Staff, the public for being a part of this. We had a
41 great turnout. Like Eric mentioned when the meeting
42 started, this is the biggest crowd that we ever saw.
43 Even at this last day here we still have a fairly good
44 crowd.

45
46 I wish everybody well and we'll be
47 looking forward to the next upcoming spring meeting.
48 I'd like to thank Patty for coming up to Kotzebue to
49 help with our regional meetings. She's been on top of

50

1 this for ever since I got the meeting started back in
2 Kotz.

3
4 I'd like to thank one of our regional
5 reps who we got to sit in as an alternate, to sit in my
6 spot. So he came in for the first day's meeting on the
7 apology and we talked him into staying just to get a
8 bird's eye view on how these meetings are conducted
9 here so he'll be familiar in case there's an event I
10 couldn't make it. We have Ralph Ramoth from Selawik.
11 I'm sure a handful of you were able to meet him.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Cyrus.
16 Patty.

17
18 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It's after 4:30.

19
20 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It's well after 4:30.

21
22 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I would like to echo
23 everyone else and thank the Council for all their
24 support over the past year especially when people
25 didn't get their grant agreements in time. Their
26 patience in working through this process. Also the
27 State and the Fish and Wildlife Service for the apology
28 yesterday. It was a great ceremony and long time
29 coming. I think it's just another success story that
30 we can share with the AMBCC. We've been really doing a
31 lot of positive things over the past several years. It
32 just makes me proud to be a part of this organization.

33
34 Thank you all for your time you put in
35 to these issues.

36
37 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Patty.
38 Bruce.

39
40 MR. DALE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
41 like to thank several people too. First off I'd like
42 to thank APIA for letting us use this facility. It's a
43 wonderful building, a wonderful location and the people
44 are even better. That's been great.

45
46 The members of the Council worked so
47 hard to put everything together. The guests and
48 additional alternates who were brought, it's great.
49 The staff of the Fish and Wildlife Service does a
50

1 remarkable job and I can't help but brag up or
2 subsistence and wildlife division staff that really put
3 their all into this as well.
4

5 The apology was historic. It was long
6 overdue. I'm very pleased and the State of Alaska is
7 very pleased to have accomplished this. I would like
8 to recognize Crystal Leonetti and Jill Klein as two
9 people who did the heavy lifting for the Fish and
10 Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska to get the
11 drafts approved in what is a politically challenging
12 climate in some ways. The fact that it was done is
13 testament to how sincere we are in delivering that.
14

15 I have to say this is my four year and
16 I've told you this every year, but this is one of the
17 favorite things I do. I'm on a lot of different things
18 that I do in my job, and this is my favorite. I
19 started to think about it and it occurred to me about
20 halfway through the regional reports that the regional
21 reports are awesome.
22

23 I mean you get to sit here and listen
24 to stuff going on all over the state and how the year
25 was and what their concerns are and what the high spots
26 were from the most knowledgeable people around in one
27 sitting. It's really a very special experience. I
28 don't think you could see that anywhere in half a
29 morning. It's really a wonderful thing for me.
30

31 Anyway, thank you all. I really like
32 it here.
33

34 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Bruce.
35 You know, it's really clear that around the table and
36 around the agencies there's a lot of passion,
37 dedication and perseverance. We had long days and
38 we're just finishing up another one from 9:00 to 5:00.
39 We pushed hard. I appreciate the perseverance of the
40 Council members and members of the public.
41

42 As Bruce said, it was a historic day
43 yesterday in terms of the apology from two agencies.
44 It was long overdue and I think, as Gayla appropriately
45 said, it sets the stage for healing and future
46 collaboration and support.
47

48 I think it's safe to say all three
49 partners are going to make a misstep once in a while.
50

1 It's going to happen and I think what's incumbent upon
2 us is to have the patience and understanding that when
3 those things happen that we take it in light and we sit
4 down and discuss it in a calm and professional manner
5 and I think as we do that, whether there's disagreement
6 or not, I think progress will be made.

7
8 Like Bruce said, I appreciate the
9 alternates coming in. I know Billy came into this and
10 wondered what we were about and did a great job.
11 Gloria has been here for a long time, but again hasn't
12 been at the table for a while. Again, I appreciate
13 that.

14
15 The folks that took the efforts to put
16 together PowerPoint presentations. Liliana, Julian,
17 Jason, Neesha, Randall, Todd and Bob and others. It
18 takes time to put together those presentations and give
19 them and I certainly appreciate their efforts.

20
21 I want to thank Patty for putting
22 together another great binder and for all the efforts
23 in terms of pulling this together. I had just talked
24 to Karen about -- echoing what Bruce said, that we
25 really appreciate the use of this facility.

26
27 With that, I hope everyone has safe
28 travels home and this weather continues to be as nice
29 as it is here and perhaps as nice as it is here in your
30 other regions. With that, I'll take a motion to
31 adjourn the meeting.

32
33 MS. SCHWALENBERG: No. We have to set
34 a date for the next meeting.

35
36 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Oh, that is correct.

37
38 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Then you'll pass the
39 gavel.

40
41 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: I know. And Gayla is
42 not here.

43
44 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Cyrus is the acting.

45
46 CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Cyrus is here. I
47 pass the gavel to you and you pick the date and place
48 of next meeting and then you get to bang his.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Okay. I left
4 my calendar over that way. So the date and time for
5 the next meeting would be the spring meeting we're
6 talking about?

7

8 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.

9

10 MR. TAYLOR: That would be correct.

11

12 MS. SCHWALENBERG: We generally choose
13 the first week in April, but I included a calendar for
14 March and April under Tab 10. So whatever is the
15 pleasure of the Council.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Whatever is
18 the pleasure of the Council. Whatever date you all
19 pick is going to work for me.

20

21 MR. DEVINE: Mr. Chair. March don't
22 work for me, so first week in April is good.

23

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: First week in
25 April. Any other suggestions.

26

27 MR. AHMASUK: I've got a question.

28

29 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Brandon.

30

31 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Brandon Ahmasuk, Subsistence Director for Nome. I
33 agree with Peter for our region. March does not work
34 for Nome. Actually pretty much the whole Seward
35 Peninsula. Iron Dog, Iditarod, Iditarod basketball,
36 Nome-Golovin Race. Spring celebration basically.
37 Pretty much the whole month of March is taken up, but
38 then we have that last week of March where we try to
39 have our meeting before the statewide meeting. So if
40 we could avoid March if at all possible, that would be
41 great.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Thank you,
46 Brandon. Last year we had it roughly about what time?
47 It seems to have worked. The second week?

48

49 MS. SCHWALENBERG: It was the first

50

1 week in April.

2

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Is the first
4 week going to work for everyone? That would be the 3rd
5 and 4th, right, or 4th and 5th.

6

7 MR. TAYLOR: April 8th through the
8 12th. That's a Saturday. The 1st through the 5th.

9

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: The 1st
11 through the 5th. Does it work better for everybody
12 coming toward the weekend like how it was set here or
13 what's the wish of the Council?

14

15 MR. TAYLOR: Do you want to go for the
16 2nd through the 4th, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
17 Monday and Friday a travel day. If we need three days.

18

19 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yeah, we'll need
20 three days.

21

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Okay. Next
23 meeting date is going to be the 3rd and 4th, travel day
24 on the 2nd, return day on the 5th. That would be April
25 2 to 5th, 2019.

26

27 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Actually the travel
28 day would be Monday because Tuesday we have the
29 committee meetings and the Native Caucus. So Tuesday,
30 Wednesday and Thursday will be the meeting days.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Thanks for the
33 clarification, Patty. First week of April 2019.

34

35 Adjournment?

36

37 MR. TAYLOR: No, pick a location.

38

39 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Sorry.
40 Location. Patty.

41

42 MS. SCHWALENBERG: The pleasure of the
43 Council. I know we try to have one meeting somewhere
44 else, but the spring meeting we generally try to keep
45 in Anchorage because it's the regulatory meeting. If
46 we could have the meeting in Anchorage for the spring
47 and maybe try to have it somewhere else in the fall.

48

49 MR. TAYLOR: Bruce, any thoughts?

50

1 MS. SCHWALENBERG: I'm not the boss.
2 You guys are. Somebody tell me.
3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: I agree.
5
6 MS. STICKWAN: This is a good place for
7 the meeting.
8
9 MR. DALE: That works.
10
11 MR. TAYLOR: All right.
12
13 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Anchorage.
14 Place, Patty.
15
16 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Here.
17
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Here? This
19 building?
20
21 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes.
22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Okay. First
24 week of April 2019 here in Anchorage in the same
25 building. Adjournment. Any opposed.
26
27 MR. DEVINE: I make a motion to adjourn
28 there, boss.
29
30 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Thank you,
31 Peter.
32
33 MR. FAGERSTROM: Second.
34
35 ACTING CHAIRMAN HARRIS: Thank you,
36 Jack. Meeting adjourned.
37
38 (Off record)
39
40 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

